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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Delivers Saddam Note to League

NC1807162695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1612 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Cairo tonight.

The Iraqi foreign minister will deliver a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The message calls on the League to support Iraq in demanding the lifting of the economic embargo imposed on it.

The Iraqi minister was received upon arrival by Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's delegate to the Arab League, and Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Arab League.

Meets League Chief, Comments

NC1907132395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1235 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al—Sahhaf, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Al-Sahhaf said he briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the details of Iraq's cooperation with the committee involved in the issue of the weapons of mass destruction. He stressed that his country is implementing its commitments in compliance with Article 22 of Resolution 687 on lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

He added that he gave the Arab League secretary general all the details and asked for the League's support for Iraq.

He further said he also discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the agenda for the Arab League Council's session slated for September.

Answering a question on the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, al-Sahhaf said there are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, but there is a missing persons issue, adding that efforts are being made on this issue with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Editorial Backs Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

95LH0148A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
29 Apr 95 p 13

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "No to the Arab Atomic Bomb"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question on the table is: What is our position on the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? Shall we sign it, or not sign it?

My opinion is that our signature is a necessity—part and parcel of our strategic security interests, and not the contrary. At the same time, we must pressure Israel until it signs. We must push for this by all means.

A major priority for establishing peace in the region is that Israel eliminate its nuclear weapons, because their danger to this region is indisputable. One cannot expect Israel to give up the most important weapon in its arsenal merely to realize our security wishes, especially as we are now the weaker party. Israel's disarmament must therefore be compensated by a series of political and security steps that reassure Israel that its security can be maintained without the need to subject us to the dangers of nuclear weapons at a time when it may be difficult for us to control them.

The Israelis say they have built up an enormous arsenal for the sake of their defensive safety. We in turn now say that we will make a pledge that demands the safety of the entire region, including Tel Aviv. We think Israel has other options for security and defensive protection, less dangerous options that can realize Israel's future safety without doing so at the expense of our security.

The discussion of the treaty and its renewal have begun to stir sharp feelings and a call for nuclear parity with Israel. In other words, many among us have suddenly become more convinced of the logic of entering into the circle of nuclear armament. It is a mistaken and dangerous general trend. Talk about trying to obtain or manufacture nuclear weapons is a destructive, dangerous, and suicidal idea whose cost will be paid more by us Arabs than by any enemy. We shall not defeat Israel by such weapons, but only open fire on ourselves.

I have what I think are strong arguments to refute the temptations for Arab nuclear armaments at any price. First, our intra-Arab disputes are more dangerous and frequent than our Arab-Israeli disputes. We have seen how in the context of the Arab world's disputes the military means of expression have included all available kinds of weapons from napalm bombs, which were dropped on Yemen in the sixties, to mustard gas, which was used in the Kurdish mountains. Therefore, the production of Arab nuclear weapons will endanger in first, second, and third place some Arab entity.

The second argument is that nuclear weapons are not like tanks that can be purchased, kept in dark shelters, and moved toward the war when it comes time. These weapons come accompanied by a complex system always in motion and needing attention, which tolerates no errors like the ones we hear about nowadays in conventional weapons warehouses. The price of a mistake in this area is not an explosion that takes the life of the occupants of a single building, as we saw in Gaza, or destroys a small neighborhood, as happened two months ago in Sanaa; it will destroy an entire district, leaving hundreds and thousands dead. The radiation will be a source of danger present for many years in our air.

The third argument, which complements the preceding, is that nuclear weapons are not a commodity merely to be imported as one imports other weapons. They are an expression of a country's scientific progress. All the countries that have been able to explode their first atomic bomb have attained the scientific expertise to manufacture the weapons. Do we think that such scientific progress is available to us today? Honestly, there is not a single Arab country able to manufacture nuclear weapons without seeking help abroad, not to mention being subject to the circumstances of this country, as happened in the case of the Tammuz reactor that was built by agreement between the Iraqis and the French. We still do not have the full scientific structure for such inventions. If we want to reach the level of the countries that have nuclear weapons, we must first be scientifically qualified. In other words, let us make a sound beginning with the first step, not with the last rung on the ladder. If the scientific success that people talk about in our region were put in the proper context, it would be seen to be less than what can be termed real scientific progress.

To finish this argument, the structure that accompanies and complements such weapons is no less complex. These weapons demand special agencies to monitor and launch them, as well as agencies for information and protection. They are extremely sensitive and dangerous weapons and need highly developed means to render them of real value. There is not a single Arab country scientifically capable of manufacturing a launching platform. Unless a country can reach its target at the right time and place, its arms sector will be like the case of the Iraqi missiles that fell everywhere except on their assigned destinations during the Kuwait invasion. One error can guarantee defeat.

There is a fourth argument: the possible side effects on people and the environment from acquiring these weapons. The maximum danger from conventional weapons is a limited explosion, but the drawbacks of nuclear weapons can be understood only by those who live in their shadow in the industrialized countries. Cancerous tumors proliferate with the presence of nuclear reactors—this is no coincidence, but scientific fact. Their wastes have polluted the water and the soil for many years.

Nuclear leaks and simple human errors are not remote possibilities; they happen. We still remember the Soviet Chernobyl disaster. It is one of those that Moscow has acknowledged, and it destroyed the life of the people of a large city. Do you trust the Arab world's protection and maintenance resources, which we see are low in every area, so that we can put our trust in our governments to manage nuclear bombs and reactors for us? In addition, the manufacture, keeping, and management of these bombs requires special security. Otherwise they turn against their owners, if enemy hands can gain access to them surreptitiously and destroy them on their own ground.

The fifth argument is that the strategic military logic behind the possession of nuclear weapons collapses in a war with Israel. Obtaining such weapons in order to target Israel is not practical. Tel Aviv lies within the Arab zone, not in a distant continent. Any use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, will at the same time endanger the Arab population. Let us remember that the Iraqi scud missiles that targeted Israel during the Kuwait invasion killed only an Arab, not an Israeli citizen, because of demographic interpenetration. We must also remember that the area of Israel and Palestine together is about the area of a small state like Kuwait. How could we strike it with a nuclear weapon without condemning a million Palestinians to death? How could we prevent dangerous nuclear fallout from harming Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon?

It is an utterly impractical weapon that would endanger us as it would endanger our enemy.

The final argument is that most of the Arab countries today are considered very poor countries that cannot find sufficient money to improve their educational, health, and food services—countries in the poverty zone. They should first seek solutions to their living standard problems before they spend their money on expensive weapons such as nuclear weapons. Let us remember that most of the Arab countries today spend a high proportion of their budgets on conventional weapons. What will the state of their economy be after they add nuclear weapons to their expense list—weapons that require funds beyond the ability of the richest Arab country existing today?

What value is there even for Israel in obtaining these weapons, other than the delusion of power? India, which was able to produce a nuclear capability more than a quarter of a century ago, has not succeeded in solving its domestic problems. It cannot stop sectarian disturbances by dropping a bomb on its citizens. It cannot guarantee to the millions sleeping in the streets their daily bread, let alone preserve order in Kashmir with a nuclear bomb. The bomb is a weapon for the major countries that have been able to pass through many stages in their political and social structure, so that their only concern is to preserve their position in a calculated international balance.

The conflict with Israel forces a confrontation on us, especially as regards the question of nuclear weapons. My view is that the Arab governments ought to make elimination of Israeli nuclear weapons their foremost priority because these weapons constitute a real danger to us all. We must look for appropriate channels to divest the Israelis of such weapons. The most prominent of these channels is the exertion of constant pressure without gambling with the logic of embarking on a nuclear race with Israel.

*Market on Tunisian-Libyan Border Growing

95AF0114A Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Jun 95 p 6

[Article by Jean-Pierre Tuquoi: "Air Embargo Against Tripoli Causes Libyan Dinar To Drop... And Southern Tunisia To Prosper" — first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The border zone between the two countries has turned into a gigantic unsanctioned market... The air embargo against Libya in force since 15 April 1992 has revitalized southern Tunisia, a region without much in the way of resources. Libyans in search of hard currency and pleasant diversions are crossing the border, their vehicles full of products imported from all over the world by Tripoli. Tunisian merchants buy their wares up for a pittance, and some of the merchandise ends up on the Tunisian market.

Ben Gardane—It is a small village in the south Tunisian desert. There is nothing exotic about it, no big attraction to draw the tourists who come to try their luck on the isle of Djerba, only an hour away by car. Ben Gardane is a depressingly bland town, but one which, by virtue of its strategic position—it is the last urban concentration before the Tunisian-Libyan border, 30 kilometers ahead—is the site of an extravagant "Libyan market" or "suq libya". In the labyrinths of this immense, amorphous, open-air site on the outskirts of town, kept under close watch by uniformed and plainclothes policemen, anything can be obtained: Korean tires, soap from Marseille, Egyptian cooking utensils, Turkish detergents, tea from Sri Lanka, Chinese hi-fi equipment and bicycles, American cigarettes, infant pilches from Malta, cheeses from Holland, razor blades and fabric from Thailand. Larger items—washing machines, refrigerators, farm tractors—are stored, to save space, in warehouses in town.

Everything sold at the Ben Gardane market comes from Libya, Tunisia's "big neighbor," where subsidized products abound. Even the cans of tomato sauce and mats stamped "made in Tunisia" have transited Libya before ending up in this colorful, cosmopolitan, chaotic market. Libyans are responsible for most of the trafficking. One passes their vehicles, stuffed full of goods, along the "unity road" that links the two countries, one Tunisian segment of which was partly financed by Tripoli.

Some of the customers are merchants, who return to Libya as heavily laden as they came. But with products difficult to find locally: construction equipment, auto parts, medical supplies. Others return to their austere homeland with empty pockets but lots of happy memories. Deprived of alcohol at home, the Libyans, so it is said, go to Sfax or Tunis to live a little and indulge in voluptuous pleasures. This migration to the capital has been a windfall for Tuninter, the privately owned domestic airline that is now running much more frequent flights between Djerba and Tunis.

A happy coincidence of political and economic circumstances is responsible for the good fortune that has blessed the Libyan suq of Ben Gardane since the end of the 1980's. Quieter relations between Tunis and Tripoli, Col. Qadhafi's shelving of hard-and-fast socialism, his conversion to a sort of liberalism, and UN imposition of an air embargo against Libya are the basic ingredients of the unsanctioned commerce that prospers all along the border.

Currency exchange is not a problem. The road to the frontier is peppered with dozens of money changers who, in an effort to lure passing motorists, openly wave fat wads of Tunisian and Libyan currency at them from the roadside, under the indifferent gaze of the numerous policemen patrolling the region. These impromptu money changers, standing stoically in the blistering sun, are impoverished and often illiterate. "They do not have enough money to go into business for themselves. They work for Ben Gardane's wealthy families, which divide the currency exchange market among themselves. They fully understand Libya's international situation. Each time the embargo is renewed, they lower the exchange value of the Libyan dinar," explains Mostafa Kharoufi of the Tunis-based Institute for Research on the Contemporary Maghreb (IRMC).

The exchange rates being offered say a lot about the pitifully low level of confidence inspired by the Libyan dinar in these times of embargo. In early June, it took 3 Libyan dinars to buy 1 Tunisian dinar, at a time when the official rate used by the banks was just the reverse. Surely any country with a currency as outrageously undervalued as Libya's would likewise see its exports take flight. The gasoline market best illustrates the effects of these monetary distortions. In Tunisian service stations, a liter of premium gasoline costs the equivalent of 3 francs. But, for more than 100 kilometers along the road to the frontier, an army of itinerant vendors guarding plastic drums of gasoline are offering fill-ups for 30 francs!

Sold at prices that defy all competition, Libyan products make their way far beyond the precincts of Ben Gardane. There are Libyan "suqs" in Medenine and Sfax to the north, and in Gafsa to the west. Even the capital city has one in the middle of town, provisioned by Tunis merchants who get their wares direct from the Tunisian south.

For the last three years, Tunisian businessmen have tirelessly denounced the harm being done to their enterprises by unfair competition from illegally imported goods. So far, to no effect. Because the authorities are content to wink at a commerce that, while not enriching the coffers of the state, does furnish livable incomes to a disadvantaged region and help slow down the rural exodus. Only the lifting of the embargo against Tripoli by the UN—or the entry into force of the Arab Maghrebian Union (UMA)—could put a crimp in Ben Gardane and its Libyan suq. Neither of those events is likely to occur anytime soon.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Notes Efforts To Meet 25 Jul Deadline

JN1907194995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Egypt this evening after meeting there with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. More details in the following report by correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording, in progress] ...from Alexandria, where he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. President 'Arafat said: We are doing our best to arrive at a faithful implementation of the agreement by the set date of 25 July. On arrival at the Presidential Office in Gaza, President 'Arafat expressed the hope that this meeting, which was held under the sponsorship of Egyptian President Mubarak, will help advance the peace process.

Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy, said that the negotiatory process as a whole was reviewed, especially as regards redeployment, the Palestinian legislative elections, the Hebron and Bethlehem issues, and security arrangements. Hoping for steady progress, Quray' said that there is an understanding on a number of topics between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. [end recording]

Sha'th: Extension of Self-Rule Areas Expected

JN1907201995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During a visit to Janin today, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, stated that the National Authority will be extended to Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah within the next few days or weeks. More details about Dr. Sha'th's statements are in the following interview with him by our correspondent in Janin, Nasir Abu-Bakr.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] We are approaching the extension of the Palestinian National Authority to Janin. As you know, Janin could have been first, along with Jericho and Gaza. At least for now, it will be with Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm, to be followed by the rest of the cities. Intensive preparations are under way. As minister of planning and international cooperation, I am here to listen to all the real needs of the Janin population to include them in our plan and to build the required institutions to meet them. We will start by opening a branch of the Planning Ministry in Janin, God willing.

[Abu-Bakr] There are fears, especially among merchants in Janin, that redeployment may affect the local market, since it basically depends on the 1948 Arabs?

[Sha'th] Why the fears? We do not want to close the doors before the 1948 Arabs. On the contrary, we want to encourage them to continue dealings with our brothers and merchants here. Closing doors is out of the question.

[Abu-Bakr] The settlement and prisoner issues cause daily tensions and despair among average citizens in Janin. Could you provide assurances to the Palestinian people in this regard?

[Sha'th] The prisoners are always in our heart and mind. They are an indivisible part of this agreement. We view them as an occupied city which must be liberated, exactly like Janin, Tulkarm, and Nabulus. At least the agreement will include a schedule for their release. We have so far obtained a commitment to release more than half of the prisoners. We want a schedule for the other half, God willing. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh on Alexandria Talks, Killings

JN1907174295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Palestinian Authority's official in charge of information and culture, commented on the Alexandria meeting. He said there are obstacles preventing reaching an agreement with the Palestinians. In remarks to our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid, he hoped that today's tripartite meeting in Alexandria would result in boosting the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayid] Do you believe that today's tripartite meeting in Alexandria will push the wheels of negotiations, which have been blocked by the water issue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This depends on the Israeli position. It is not only a question of water—there is the water issue, the authority's responsibilities in the populated areas, the state land, and a number of other issues that must be addressed and resolved. It is known that we obtain only 10 percent of our water. This results in agricultural and other crises in various cities and areas, which sometimes suffer thirst.

[Abu-Zayid] Your Excellency the Minister, Israel has demanded the extradition of the killers of two Israeli citizens near Jericho?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Let us wait for the outcome of the investigations. There are clear clauses in the agreement providing for cooperation, the exchange of information, and investigations in this regard. Some Israelis say: We believe the killers are in Jericho. Others say: We are sure they are in Jericho. Some tendentious people in some Israeli quarters have decided before the outcome of the security agencies' investigations that they are in Jericho. This is a situation we cannot deal with. We are acting on an official basis, in accordance with agreements, and through competent official quarters. [end recording]

PFLP-GC Condemns 'Secret' 'Arafat-Rabin Plan

JN1907185795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Statement by a "responsible" source in the PFLP-GC; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some news media have cited a source close to Yasir 'Arafat as saying that the self-rule authority concluded a new secret agreement with Yitzhaq Rabin which provides for the following:

1. 'Arafat pledged to Rabin to hold a meeting of the illegal Palestine National Council [PNC] two months after the Zionist military redeployment in the West Bank. This meeting will be tasked with canceling the basic articles in the PLO Charter, so all provisions calling for armed struggle, for unity of the land of Palestine, and for hostility toward the racist Zionist entity will be omitted.

2. After accomplishing this mission, an elected self-rule council will replace the PNC. In accordance with the decisions that will be made by the PNC, the most prominent tasks of the elected self-rule council will be to cancel the PLO's political and organizational structure.

The source added: This agreement is not surprising or new. When 'Arafat signed the Oslo agreement, he passed the death sentence not only on the National Charter but also on the PLO, thus bringing down all the struggle and national and pan-Arab programs of the Palestinian people.

The source said that 'Arafat wants to complement this penalty by holding unilateral rigged elections under the Zionist occupation and the Oslo agreement. He added: 'Arafat should realize that the PLO was the result of the Palestinian people's continued daily struggle, the souls of the martyrs and victims, and of the continued and historic struggle against the Zionist enemy.

He continued: 'Arafat and those around him cannot, and do not have the right, to change what the Palestinian people have shaped through their blood and pains. Any elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to create a limited self-rule council will first of all be Zionist and illegitimate elections which are only based on terrorism, repression, and material and moral persecution.

Concluding his statement, the source said: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] calls on all national, Islamic, and pan-Arab forces in and outside Palestine to foil the new 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, and calls on our kinsfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to boycott the rigged 'Arafat-Rabin elections. The PFLP-GC also announces its determination to continue struggle in order to safeguard the PLO and its National Charter and adopt this charter as the principle and the path designed to bring down the Zionist-U.S.-'Arafatist solutions and liberate Palestine from the tyrants, aggressors, deviants, and those signing the suspect agreements led by the Oslo agreement.

Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

PA's Yusuf Rejects Extradition of Suspects

TA2007102595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Police commander Maj.-Gen. Nasr Yusuf said yesterday he will not extradite suspects in the murder of two Israeli youngsters on Tuesday in Wadi al-Qilt, near Jericho. "If they are in our areas we will deal with them ourselves," Yusuf told reporters in Gaza.

Yusuf, who heads the 18,000-member Palestinian security force, said the killers of Ohad Bachrach and Ori Shahor seem to have come from areas under Israeli control. "We are not responsible for this incident," he said. "We have no evidence that our areas of jurisdiction are involved in this incident."

[On the same page of this edition of THE JERUSALEM POST, Bill Hutman reports: "The terrorists responsible for Tuesday's Wadi al-Qilt double murder apparently did not come from or flee to Jericho, Judaea and Samaria Police chief Cmdr. Alik Ron said yesterday.

["His statement contradicted earlier reports that the manhunt for the terrorists was focusing on Jericho. Police sources confirmed 'there were no clear signs' the terrorists fled to the PA enclave, just a few kilometers from the site of the murders."

["Ron, meanwhile, complained that in general there was little cooperation between the Israel Police and the Palestinian Police.

["The PA in Jericho has not responded to Israeli requests to turn over Palestinian terrorists who have fled there, but only Palestinian criminals, Ron said."]

The police chief's remarks came as Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria that PA police had arrested several members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and are investigating whether the killers are hiding in Jericho.

However, PFLP spokesman Riyad al-Maliki said last night the only claim of responsibility by the PFLP that he knew of was in a phone call to the Associated Press. "But we heard no statement from Damascus saying this. If the PFLP takes any action a statement is issued from Damascus," he said.

Yusuf said 2,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army will soon arrive to be deployed in Judaea and Samaria. The Palestinians are asking that another 3,000 fighters from abroad be added to the force and that the PA will seek Israeli approval for this.

Yusuf rejected accusations of an abundance of rival Palestinian security services, noting the Cairo Agreement allows for four branches of the security forces. A report this week by Peace Watch said the PA has six security services, but Yusuf said several of them are parts of the four main organizations.

Yusuf said the PA has managed to contain Islamic terrorism. A key reason, he said, is that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] no longer feels that the Palestinians support "military actions" against the Israelis. Another is that the PA has improved security.

One measure, Yusuf said, is the control of weapons in Gaza and Jericho. He said the PA has so far registered 600 weapons and confiscated another 100.

"We have the experience of the last 13 months in Gaza and Jericho," Yusuf said. "I envisage that such experience will serve us in the West Bank."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 July in a similar report on page A4 by Gaza Strip correspondent 'Amira Hass writes that "at a news conference in the Gaza Strip, General Nasr Yusuf said: 'Israel is violating the Cairo Agreement by continuing to operate collaborators within the autonomous areas.'" The reports adds that "Yusuf asserted that there is no Palestinian police presence in the West Bank, except for Jericho, at this time." "Commenting on the presence of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, Yusuf said: 'They will not be the ones to decide whether we have peace. The two peoples and the international community have decided to reach peace in the region. The settlers' fate is an issue that will be decided in the negotiations, and the Oslo agreement already stipulates that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are Palestinian territories.' Yusuf said that the settlers will be able to leave if they want to, but if they desire to stay, 'we are fully prepared to accept them as Palestinian citizens'."]

Paper Condemns Israeli Right-Wing 'Crimes'

JN1807120395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: The Israeli Right Wing Crimes...for How Long?]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fierce campaign launched by the Israeli right wing, represented by its political forces and parties, as well as its extremist armed settlers, and all attacks, crimes, and instigations made under the banner of foiling the peace process, confirm the fact that the real objectives of this campaign are not confined to destroying the peace process and to attempting to prevent it from making any progress. They go beyond that to seizing more Palestinian lands by force, attacking and committing crimes against unarmed Palestinians, expanding settlements, and establishing new settlement facts on the ground.

It is quite obvious that the Israeli right wing and its executive arm; namely, the settlers and extremist racist groups, have mobilized all their energies and efforts and have employed various tools, including the ideological ones, for the sake of achieving their goals. What then is the meaning of the Israeli rabbis' religious rulings that allow the Israeli soldiers and settlers to resist any Israeli attempt to evacuate any part of the occupied lands or recognize even a small part of Palestinian rights? What is the meaning of the instigations and threats to kill Palestinian police officers made by a number of right-wing political figures? How can a "democratic state" or "state of law" tolerate such crossing of red lines, which would only mean forceful resistance of any Israeli attempt to reach a settlement?

There are many questions that the Israeli Government itself should answer if it is really concerned to support the peace process. We, of course, are not talking about the domestic Israeli political differences. We are talking about daily attacks and crimes committed by settlers in the occupied territories, including attacks on defenseless Palestinian citizens, the seizure of their lands, and other practices, in addition to the disinformation and incitement campaign launched by the Israeli right wing against the Palestinian people and the National Authority, and the blatant threats to kill Palestinians. The Israeli Government, meanwhile, remains hesitant at best or silent most of the time about all that is happening.

This reaffirms the fact that the Israeli Government is not brave or bold enough to make peace and to adopt a clear decision that puts an end to all these attacks and crimes. This situation reinforces the conviction that the Israeli Government is exploiting the pressure campaign launched by the right wing to justify its hard-line policy in the negotiations with the Palestinian side and try to blackmail Palestinians into making concessions under pretexts and justifications that are far removed from a sincere desire to reconciliate and make peace.

In order not to entrench the belief that the Israeli stands in the negotiations are dictated by the settlers' crimes and attacks, as well as by the terrorism and intimidation campaigns launched by the Israeli right wing parties, the Israeli Government is required to prove how serious it is about pushing forward the peace process and putting an end to all these crimes. Such crimes will certainly foil the peace process if Israel continues to remain silent over them, especially since Palestinian patience has its limits. Therefore, anyone who ignores the serious repercussions of what is going on should not be surprised if the peace process turns into mere slogans.

Hamas Attack on Preventive Security Chief Noted

JN1907063795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the Palestinian Authority's [PA] silence and Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement's denial, AL-MAJD can safely confirm that masked fighters last week broke into the house of Muhammad Dahlan, head of the [Palestinian] Preventive Security agency in Gaza, and threatened him with their weapons. They told him, while he was trembling with fear, that this move was intended to serve as a threat to him and to other PA members to show them that Hamas fighters are capable of reaching them to take revenge for the chasing of Hamas leaders, cadres, and mujahidin.

A reliable source inside the Preventive Security agency told AL-MAJD that leaders of security organs in the PA were shocked by the ability of Hamas to reach Dahlan and to plan and carry out the impressive storming operation after sidestepping the large number of guards.

Disclosing the details of this daring operation, the source added that a speeding car belonging to Hamas opened fire at dawn on the house of the head of the Preventive Security agency, who was mainly involved in the arrest and torture of Hamas leaders. Thereafter, the house's guards chased and opened fire on the speeding car, thus leaving the house virtually unguarded.

The source said that another group of masked Hamas fighters seized the opportunity, as the guards were engaged in chasing the speeding car — which was basically intended to distract the guards — and stormed the house which is located in al-Sabrah quarter in

Gaza. They then proceeded toward Dahlan and, while brandishing their arms, warned that repressive measures against Hamas should stop.

In a related development, AL-MAJD has learned that Usamah Ahmad — an intelligence agency member responsible for shaving the beard of Mahmud al—Zahhar, a prominent Hamas leader now held in the PA prisons — was shot with six bullets in his leg. Hamas fighters who fired at this official planned not to kill him and deemed it enough to break his legs in revenge for his ugly deed which the occupation authorities did not dare to commit.

Kanafani on Kuwaiti 'Hostility' to Palestinians

JN1807140495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has ruled out a visit to Kuwait in the near future so long as the stands of some Kuwaiti officials are still characterized by hatred and hostility.

Replying to a report citing the Kuwaiti information minister and published in the London-based magazine AL-WASAT, President 'Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanafani said the president has not expressed any desire to visit Kuwait because the Kuwaiti officials, led by the Kuwaiti information minister, have contributed to the campaign of hatred and hostility toward the Palestinian people and their leadership, and are still repeating their lies, which are rejected by the Arab people, who know the whole truth. Kanafani regretted the low level to which an official who is supposed to be a source of integrity and rationality has stooped. In spite of this, he added, President 'Arafat still holds the warmest feelings of amity and gratitude to the Kuwaiti people, who were in the forefront of those who supported and embraced the Palestinian revolution. This is a fact that cannot be reversed by false and suspect statements.

'Arafat, Cypriot Minister Discuss Election Role

JN1707192295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Cypriot Foreign Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon. Talks dealt with Palestinian-Cypriot relations and the latest developments in the peace process.

The two sides also discussed the participation of Cyprus in the international supervision of the Palestinian legislative elections. President 'Arafat briefed the guest minister on the negotiations with the Israeli side. After the meeting, we posed a question to President 'Arafat.

[Begin recording] [al-Za'nun] Your Excellency the President: What are the results of your talks with the Cypriot minister?

['Arafat] The results are positive and successful. Do not forget that the Palestinian-Cypriot relationship is an old, militant, and fraternal one. We take pride in these relations, and we profoundly thank his excellency the Cypriot minister for visiting us here.

I asked the minister to convey greetings in my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people to the friendly Cypriot people, to his excellency the Cypriot president, and to the Cypriot Government. At the same time, I thank them for the aid they are extending to the Palestinian people despite their hard circumstances. [end recording]

On his part, the Cypriot foreign minister thanked President 'Arafat for giving Cyprus an opportunity to take part in the international supervision of the coming Palestinian legislative elections. He invited President 'Arafat to visit his country and expressed hope that Cyprus will be a major station for the Palestinian airlines.

The Cypriot minister added that he reviewed the aid program which his government will extend to the National Authority [NA] as soon as possible. He also lauded Palestinian-Cypriot relations and asserted that this is the beginning of real regional cooperation in the fields of the economy and development.

Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said the Cypriot Government will build two clinics in the NA areas and train technical and administrative cadres. Cyprus will also participate in the Palestinian Development Bank, he added.

It should be noted that Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha accompanied the guest Cypriot minister on a visit to the Roman Orthodox Church in the neighborhood of al-Zaytun in Gaza.

Austrian Official Visits Orient House

TA1507142195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benita-Maria Gerrero-Waldner, Austrian state secretary for foreign affairs, visited Orient House this morning and later expressed Austria's support for the Palestinian demand for sovereignty over part of Jerusalem. The Austrian official came to Jerusalem in order to attend the inauguration of a clinic in the Old City built with Austrian aid. The Austrian visitor said she would also visit Gaza city today and meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. She has no plans to meet with Israeli officials.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Agreement in Cairo, Snags in Zikhron Reported

TA1907153695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants in the Cairo meeting — Mubarak, Peres, and 'Arafat — reported that agreements have been reached on several points. At the same time, there are difficulties in the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks on the issue of electric power in the territories.

Upon his request, Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan this evening conferred with the prime minister. According to Eytan, Mr. Rabin confirmed that there is serious disagreement with the Palestinians over the issue of water distribution, which might lead to a crisis in the talks. The prime minister, he said, has three red lines in the talks with the Palestinians: Jerusalem, the right of return, and a Palestinian state.

Eytan asked the prime minister to hold more frequent meetings with settlers and right-wing activists these days to prevent a rift in the nation.

President Weizman called on the peace negotiators today to seek as broad a national consensus as possible regarding peace with Syria and the Palestinians.

'Arafat, Mubarak, Peres Meet in Alexandria, Cairo

'Arafat on PFLP Arrests, Water

TA1907175195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Cairo talks today, Yasir 'Arafat told Peres and Mubarak that he has arrested the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] after they had assumed responsibility for the murder of the two Jewish youths in Wadi al-Qilt. 'Arafat also ordered that the murderers be hunted down in Jericho. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that when the three met in Alexandria, 'Arafat said he is aware of Israel's security problem.

In the meetings, it was agreed that the current water sources will not be redivided, and an effort will be made to create alternative sources. The three will meet again in Cairo next week if the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks fail to yield an agreement.

Palestinians Said To Want 2-Stage Signing

NC1907180195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—Israeli sources participating in the three-way meeting in Alexandria today have disclosed that the Palestinian side expressed the wish during the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to sign the agreement on implementing the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in two stages: with initials in Cairo and finally in Washington in August.

The sources told MENA that Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, spokesman for the Palestinian president, stressed that initialing should take place in Cairo and the final signing take place in Washington.

The same sources pointed out that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today told reporters during his trip from Israel to Alexandria that the idea of initialing the agreement in Cairo is not under consideration at present and that this will depend on the two sides making progress in negotiations.

President Mubarak stated today at the international news conference in Alexandria that what counts is for the two sides to sign an agreement. There is no problem as to where the agreement is signed.

Leaders Hold News Conference

NC1907164895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will continue in Zikhron Ya'acov in Haifa until Sunday. If either side needs assistance, we will not hesitate to provide it, he said.

In today's joint news conference at the end of his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria, he said he held the meeting to bring the two sides' views closer together.

Shim'on Peres replied to a question by saying he believes that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams will be able to reach specific proposals to bridge the gap between the two sides.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the two sides will reach an agreement before 25 July, noting that he called on 'Arafat and Peres to bridge the gap between the two sides.

He pointed out that the issue of the imprisoned Palestinian women was discussed and that he contacted Israeli President Ezer Weismann about the elections.

President 'Arafat said in reply to reporters' questions: What concerns us before the elections is redeployment, empowerment, and the final agreement.

Responding to a question on the issue of water, Shim'on Peres said: We are not expected to reach an agreement at present.

Responding to a question, 'Arafat said: We understand Israel's need for security. The Palestinian Authority has taken measures on this.

The Israeli foreign minister commented by saying: The Israeli authorities will establish checkpoints for inspections and security at the crossing points. He expressed the hope that both sides will have credibility and will be committed to its promises.

President Mubarak said the hopes for the Palestinian track are good. As for the Syrian track, he hoped something would be achieved this year.

Touching on the issue of redeployment, Peres said: I am optimistic.

Replying to a question, President Mubarak said: We will meet again in Cairo, where the two sides will hold further talks. He clarified by adding that this did not mean the Palestinian-Israeli agreement concerning the second phase of the Palestinian self-rule would be signed in Cairo. He remarked that there is no problem in signing the agreement anywhere.

Replying to a question on how much closer the two sides' views became, he said the two sides discussed several issues. He noted that an understanding was reached on the issues of the imprisoned Palestinian women and the elections. He pointed out that he contacted the Israeli president, who promised to look into the matters quickly.

The president expressed hope that specific results on these issues would be reached, adding that other issues remain under consideration by the two sides and that the talks will continue on them until Sunday. He hoped results would be reached before 25 July, the date the two sides agreed on.

Shim'on Peres was asked how an agreement on self-rule can be reached when the two sides have disagreements. He replied: We are discussing general matters today. But I can assure you that some specific issues will be discussed by the negotiating teams. They will be able to reach an agreement on the ideas put forward at the negotiating table.

Replying to a question from MENA concerning reports on points of agreement and difference between Israel and the Palestinians and reports that the agreement is divided into two stages, the first dealing with the points of agreement, and the second dealing with points of difference, and whether this idea was raised during today's discussions, 'Arafat said: There are two agreements. We are now dealing with the first agreement. It precedes the elections and is meant to facilitate the elections process, the redeployment, and the transfer of authority. The second and final agreement will be concluded later. We have agreed to this.

Replying to a question about the security situation, 'Arafat said he understands Israel's important need for security. He said: We have taken basic steps, including the ones I took yesterday before coming here. These steps concern the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], which claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli soldiers. 'Arafat refused to divulge these steps.

Regarding the signing of the agreement that will be reached in Washington on 25 July, President Mubarak said he has not received an official invitation to attend the signing of the agreement. He added: Let us concentrate on concluding the agreement first.

In response to a question on the agreement to share West Bank water resources between the Palestinians and Israelis, President Mubarak said: We have raised some ideas but will discuss them again. He added: We are not supposed to reach an agreement now. We have raised some ideas to overcome the differences between the two sides.

Replying to a question on the closure of roads, the Palestinian protest of this, and the resulting security measures, Shim'on Peres said five tragic incidents took place in Gaza. He added: We will open the roads for civilian use and will establish security checkpoints. The security measures will be applied through the checkpoints. He expressed hope that comprehensive and final peace will be achieved, that the Israeli and Palestinian side will have greater confidence, and that each will keep its promises.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli track in the peace process, President Mubarak said: We cannot link the Syrian and Israeli peace talks to those between the Palestinians and Israel. I believe that even though the Syrian-Israeli track may take some time, there is hope of reaching an agreement. Further, I hope that this will be achieved this year.

Replying to a question on the redeployment of the Israeli Defense Forces, President Mubarak noted that this issue is still being discussed. He expressed hope that the two sides will succeed in reaching an agreement on this through cooperation and coordination. He said: I have hope that achievement on this will be reached this year.

In reply to a question on the signing of the agreement to implement the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Cairo, Shim'on Peres said: I have already said we will meet again in Cairo and will try to help conclude the agreement. But it is premature to talk about the signing of the agreement.

The news conference began with a speech from President Mubarak. In it, he welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He said the talks between the two sides and their outcome were a good start, the discussions will continue in the coming period, and an agreement will be reached this month or early next month.

President 'Arafat also spoke and thanked President Mubarak for his efforts to back the peace process. He said: We have succeeded to a large degree in closing the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He added: We will continue the negotiations, here or there, to overcome the differences.

Peres then spoke and thanked President Mubarak for his serious and significant contribution to the peace process. He said: I speak today from a historic perspective. We would not have reached our achievement without President Mubarak's contribution. I am pleased that President Mubarak is continuing his backing for the Middle East peace process. He stressed that both sides succeeded in achieving their goals through President Mubarak's strong support.

Peres expressed confidence that the situation in Gaza will improve under Chairman 'Arafat's leadership. He said: We will reach an agreement despite the doubts by some Palestinian figures about the prospects of success for the peace process.

Algeria

Violence Continues; Army Kills 200 Fundamentalists

LD1907132395 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Violence is continuing in Algeria. A booby-trapped car exploded near a school in Bouinan and seven people have been killed in Chlef, according to the daily EL WATAN.

According to another newspaper, LE SOIR D'ALGERIE, a large-scale army operation was recently carried out near Tiaret, in the southeast of the country. More than 200 armed Islamic fundamentalists were killed as a result.

Of course, these reports are difficult to confirm. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 16 'Terrorists'

LD1907195595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today that their forces eliminated 16 terrorists during their operations in the following governorates: Khenchela, Tipaza, Boumerdes, Relizane, Constantine, Tizi Ouzou and Tissemsilt. The security forces also managed to recover a quantity of weapons and ammunition, the statement added.

Armed Civilian Resistance Described

95AF0095A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Apr 95 pp 38-40

[Article by 'Uthman Tazghert: "Popular Resistance Units Declare War on Extremists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For weeks, Algeria has been experiencing an unprecedented expansion of armed confrontation. Army units have recently launched large-scale attacks against positions of the Armed Groups [GIA] in Almedia, Jijel, and Ayn Aldefli, resulting in the death of more than 3,000 armed men, according to the Algerian Foreign Ministry. Domestic battles also raged among various factions of GIA, in particular between the Army of Salvation and GIA. There were hundreds of casualties belonging to both factions in Chlef and several other areas of the Blida region.

The new development, however, that has dominated this front and aroused concern because of its effect on the likelihood of its significantly widening the scope of violence is the escalating formation of "Popular Resistance Against Terror" units throughout Algeria, especially in city and desert areas considered to be GIA strongholds. The security forces rarely risk entry to them, and the virtual total absence of the official authorities in these areas has allowed GIA to take them over and impose its authority on the population. Given the increase in rapes, kidnappings, and murders, citizens have begun to organize to defend their families and possessions.

In the city of Boufarik, which GIA proclaimed a liberated area and where there are mounting nighttime attacks on homes, kidnappings, and rapes, one family resisted an armed group that attacked their home one night. The confrontation ended with the death of a family member, while all the members of GIA were killed, among them one of their main leaders in that area known as 'Antar Zawabal.

In the village of Slimana, in the state of Tasmasilt in the west of the country, one of a group of peasants opened fire on armed men they caught in the act of stealing his sheep. In the town of Bourj Bounaameh in the western region, another peasant opposed the "misappropriation" fatwa GIA had revealed to its followers and opened fire on armed men who attacked his farm. He killed two of them and wounded the rest. In a neighboring town called Bourj Lamir Abdelkader, a former freedom fighter in the War of Liberation was forced to bear arms again and go up into the mountains, where he succeeded in rescuing his son who had been forcibly abducted by a band of extremists.

In the town of Adfoune at the entrance to the Kabyle region (50 kilometers east of the capital), another freedom fighter, a veteran of the War of Liberation, had to bear arms again, with one of his sons and a number of the town's young men, to hunt down a group of armed men who had attacked the town by night, depriving some residents of their hunting rifles and attacking the tomb of one of God's holy men. They accused the townspeople, who were used to visiting the tomb of this holy man on religious occasions, of being infidels and tomb-worshippers. The next day this freedom fighter, named Arzegui Tesnant, and the young men with him, pursued the armed men in the woods nearby where they killed one of them and took the rest prisoner; then they turned them over to the security authorities.

In the Jijel area, considered to be one of GIA's strongholds in the east of the country, a veteran freedom fighter recruited 30 young locals to respond to GIA's attacks on the population. A few weeks after the confrontations, these unequal battles led to the annihilation of the Popular Resistance unit and the murder of all its members.

The Hidden Shaykh

The courage of this freedom fighter and his comrades in Jijel was an example followed by many veterans in other areas of the country, foremost among them a person from the Lakhdariyah region (35 kilometers east of the capital), Ukba Ighoual, known as "the hidden shaykh." Recently, he has virtually become a legend in the region. This person, who gained fame as an eloquent speaker with surpassing powers of persuasion, succeeded in recruiting most of the people of the region to his side to embark upon a genuine war against GIA, which considers the Lakhdariyah region and the neighboring Zebarbar Mountains and Bouzefrazah to be its greatest strongholds in the whole country. This region is located in the "triangle of death" (Blida-Lakhdariyah-Almedia) surrounding the Algerian capital. This was where the first huge gathering of Islamic groups was held in March 1992 to declare their undertaking armed action after the elections were annulled.

With the increase in acts of violence and armed confrontations, the residents of the Lakhdariyah region became prey to double pressure: the security forces on one side, who were worried about collaboration with the terrorists, and on the other side the GIA, which had now begun to impose fines on them, confiscated their property, and enriched themselves freely from the region's farms and shops.

Since the beginning of 1993, GIA's activity in this region escalated to the point where security forces withdrew from it entirely. GIA proclaimed it a liberated area, establishing what local newspapers called, in their words, a "nighttime government." The people were forced to appeal to GIA's "commanders" with regard to every aspect of their daily lives, to settle any disputes arising among them, and for the issuance of marriage and divorce contracts.

After GIA issued its fatwa on temporary marriage [*zawaj mut'ah*: a marriage contracted for a specified time, exclusively for pleasure], the people of the region endured the abduction and rape of women; that is until the "hidden shaykh" and his comrades appeared early this past February. The people rallied around them and supported them and succeeded in a few weeks in forcing GIA into a total withdraw from the region. Then they decided to pursue them in the deserts, forests, and mountains. The "hidden shaykh" called for an all-out campaign to cleanse the Zebarbar Mountains and Bouzefrazah of terror. Hundreds of the region's residents went out to confront the extremists in ferocious battles that forced GIA to retreat, so as not to aggravate the situation or cause it to spread into other regions of the country.

Instinctive Reactions

These initiatives, carried out for the most part by veterans of the War of Liberation, enjoyed the support of the National Organization of Veteran Freedom Fighters led by Ali Kafi, former Chairman of the High State Council. Kafi called for the war veterans and retired officers to be armed, and President Liamine Zeroual, in his speech commemorating the establishment of the Algerian Workers Federation on 24 February, stressed popular resistance and promised to strive to provide state support for it. Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane al-Cherif recently stated that the Algerian Government was in the process of preparing a bill that would allow citizens to defend themselves and establish self-defense teams in regions where there was not adequate security coverage.

The Algerian minister was quick to back away from this statement, however, after the uproar it caused. He then proposed an alternative idea: that 50,000 citizen volunteer to be employed as security aides affiliated with the communes. They would be assigned to protect the population and its property from GIA attacks.

Most observers, however, noted that the growth of the Popular Resistance units was not linked to any political decision, neither on the government's part not the opposition's side. Nearly one year ago, former head of government Redha Malek and his Interior Minister Selim Saadi tried to find some means of arming civilians to fight terror, but the effort was met by popular apathy. Dr. Said Saadi, president of the Berber Bloc for Culture and Democracy, called upon his supporters to bear arms to confront the fundamentalists. There were many conflicting reports about ships laden with arms making their way to the Kabyle region; people imagined the country to be on the brink of civil war between the Berbers and Islamists, but in fact nothing happened. Most people in the Berber and other regions remained neutral, moved only by mounting incidents of the abduction and rape of women and the murder of schoolgirls, in addition to repression and mass revenge operations with which the extremists targeted people. The official authorities were powerless to maintain security in most areas, and so the idea of the Popular Resistance was gradually born, a spontaneous and almost instinctive response on the part of citizens to protect their families and property.

Ease or Escalate?

There are conflicting points of view in Algeria over the Popular Resistance units. Do they help confront and confine terrorism, and thus ease conditions gradually, or are they leading to an expansion of the circle of violence and a slide into an all-out civil war?

Socialist Forces Bloc leader Husayn Ait Ahmed described the self-defense units as "death squads" and warned of the country's sliding toward an all-out explosion. Abdelhamid Mehri, Secretary General of the National Liberation Front, has said that "the idea of popular resistance is very dangerous and can only push the country into civil war. It opens the way to further violations and settling scores and redoubles the government's inability to regulate security."

Khaleda Messoudi, vice president of the Bloc for the Republic, is surprised that some "speak of imminent civil war." She says, "We must use precise terms. A civil war occurs between two different ethnic or religious groups. This is not true of the nature of the present struggle in Algeria, nor is it true that this struggle is between only GIA and the army, as some say. Otherwise, how do we account for the 15,000 civilian casualties and more than 120,000 orphans since the start of these confrontations? If the government was unable to protect those unarmed civilians, then all they can do is control their ranks and protect themselves by themselves. It is not rational for us to ask them to consent that their slaughter continue in this way, like sheep; the people will arm themselves out of fear that it would lead to the outbreak of civil war."

Egypt

Mubarak, Peres, 'Arafat Begin Tripartite Meeting

NC1907113095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—A tripartite meeting began in Alexandria this afternoon, attended by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Also at the meeting were Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the president's political adviser Dr. Usamah al-Baz.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Ahmad Quray', "Abu-'Ala'," chairman of the Palestinian negotiating team in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt; and Marwan Kanafani, the Palestinian president's media adviser.

Yuri Savir, Foreign Ministry director general; Avi Gil, director of the foreign minister's office, and Ambassador David Sultan attended the meeting on the Israeli side.

Officials in the Israeli delegation have emphasized the importance of Alexandria's tripartite meeting and the Egyptian role in the peace process.

They voiced the hope that the tripartite meeting would produce progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and surmount the obstacles that have been hampering the talks.

They announced that the tripartite meeting is an attempt by President Mubarak to eliminate existing hurdles in the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

'Arafat, Mubarak Meet Twice

JN1907144595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting in Alexandria this afternoon to overcome obstacles to reaching an agreement on implementing the second part of the Declaration of Principles.

Following his arrival in Alexandria, President Yasir 'Arafat held two separate meetings with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The meetings dealt with developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and ways to resolve pending issues between the two sides, and the Egyptian role in reaching an agreement before 25 July.

Leaders Hold News Conference

NC1907151195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has announced that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will continue in Zikhron Ya'acov in Haifa until Sunday [23 July].

At the end of the joint news conference, held today after his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria, the president said the two sides will hold talks in Cairo later.

The president stated that this does not mean the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the second phase of the Palestinian self-rule will be signed in Cairo, adding that there is no problem signing the agreement anywhere.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak welcomed the Palestinian president and Shim'on Peres on the occasion of their presence in Egypt. He said he wanted their views to come closer together at the meeting.

The Israeli foreign minister thanked President Mubarak for his efforts to support the peace process. President 'Arafat made a similar statement. Egyptian and foreign reporters then began to ask questions to President Mubarak and to 'Arafat and Peres.

In response to a question, President Mubarak said negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will continue until Sunday. If either party needs assistance, we will not hesitate to provide it, he said.

Peres said he believes that the negotiation teams will be able to arrive at specific proposals aimed at bridging the gap between the two sides.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the two sides will reach agreement before 25 July. He noted that he invited 'Arafat and Peres to settle differences between the two sides. He pointed out that the issue of the imprisoned Palestinian women was discussed. He also said he contacted the Israeli president about the elections.

President 'Arafat said in response to a question: Before the elections, we are concerned about the redeployment, the transfer of powers, and the final agreement.

Replying to a question on the water issue, Shim'on Peres said: We are not expected to reach an agreement at present.

Replying to a question, 'Arafat said: We understand Israel's need for security. The Palestinian Authority has taken steps on this. The Israeli foreign minister commented here by saying Israeli authorities will build inspection checkpoints at the crossing points. He hoped the two sides will have credibility and that each will be committed to its promises.

President Mubarak said there is good hope for the Palestinian track as well as the Syrian track. He hoped that something would be achieved this year.

On Israeli troop redeployment, Peres said: I am optimistic about this.

At the end of the news conference, President Mubarak said: We will meet again in Cairo. As far as signing the final agreement is concerned, this is premature.

Peres Departs Alexandria

NC1907174295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1355 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Alexandria this afternoon after a short visit during which he participated in a session of talks with President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. He was seen off at al-Nuzhah International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa Discusses al-Asad's Desire for Peace

TA2007072695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Italicized passages in English with passage-by-passage translation into Hebrew; transcribed from the English]

[FBIS Translated Text] If Israel announces a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, all the gates with Syria will open and progress will be made within a short period of time, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated in an interview with IDF Radio. Commenting on al-Asad's zigzag tactics, the Egyptians say that they are not surprised and that this is how al-Asad negotiates. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] An agreement between Israel and Syria will be attained by the end of the year. This may be just a declaration of principles or an agreement on the security arrangements, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa assessed yesterday. He reiterated that he, like his boss, President Husni Mubarak, is optimistic. According to him, the difference between Damascus' and Jerusalem's approach is merely a matter of tempo. The positions of the sides point in one direction only, Musa told us, and the direction is peace.

[Musa] *Now, I believe that the talks will be resumed and progress will be achieved not in a very distant future.*

[Segal] *Do you think that al-Asad really wants an agreement?*

[Musa] *Absolutely, yes; he wants peace, a good agreement. He wants a good agreement, not any agreement.*

[Segal] In the meeting with President Mubarak, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked the Egyptians: Perhaps you have an explanation for Syria's refusal to resume the officers talks? The Egyptians replied: We are not surprised; this is how al-Asad negotiates. Speaking to our microphone, Musa was far less critical of Damascus, of course:

[Musa] *No, there is not a camouflage. This is the nature, the negotiating nature of President al-Asad. He wants to be sure that before he takes one step ahead, forward, or in any direction, he will be sure that another step taken by the other party will be done towards him with the same measurement — which is fair, is it not?*

[Segal] We were a little confused by the Egyptian optimism concerning the talks with Syria and tried to determine the basis for it: *Do you know something that we don't?*

[Musa] *I certainly know something more, many things that you don't.*

[Segal] *Like what? Can you tell us, so maybe we'll be optimistic as you?*

[Musa] *No, I won't, otherwise you will know everything I know, so I'll have no advantage over you.*

[Segal] Despite Musa's remarks, a senior Israeli political source last night told us: The Egyptians know more or less what journalists know about what goes on in Damascus. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 20 July carries a recorded interview with Musa by Arye Gus "about Israel-Egyptian relations following the recent strain in ties."

[Asked whether this strain has now been allayed, Musa replies: "I hope so. The relations between Egypt and Israel have matured in order to allow areas of conflict, areas of disagreement, as well as areas of agreement. From now on, those relations should be normal, in this sense: that what we have to say we shall say, viewed, considered from our standpoint, as you do also concerning problems that you see necessary or important from your side. The important thing is for us to talk together, to have a dialogue about those problems, try to solve them, but do not expect that we shall, say, agree to all what you say, as we don't expect that you agree to everything we say. But this is the essence of normal relations, of good relations, you see."

[Gus remarks to Musa that "saying your opinion is one thing and leading a campaign against Israel, as we felt in Israel, is another thing," to which Musa replies: "The word against is inaccurate. A campaign to rid the Middle East from weapons of mass destruction could not and should not be conceived as against Israel. Otherwise, you would be accusing Israel of promoting the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction all over the area, which would be a very, very ill-advised proposition."

[Asked whether "this problem is over now," Musa answers: "It is not over at all." Asked what the next steps will be, Musa laughs and replies: "I don't know; I won't tell you."]

Musa Discusses Sudanese Ties, Mideast Peace Talks

NC1907130395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1120 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 19 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has declared that Egypt's accusation linking the Sudanese regime with terrorism still stands. He noted that the accusation is also made by several African, Arab, and other countries.

In an interview published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR today, Musa stated that the Sudanese Government now has the burden of proving itself innocent of the charge that it spreads terror, terrorizes Arab and Islamic societies, and tries to introduce change in these societies.

He added that President Mubarak's remarks accusing Sudan of involvement in the assassination attempt against him rested on reports that were submitted to him, the preliminary results of the investigation carried out in Addis Ababa, and conversations that took place in Addis Ababa containing clear and definite references to a Sudanese role in the incident.

'Amr Musa criticized statements by Sudanese officials, particularly one attributed to Hasan al-Turabi in which he says that Egypt deals with Sudan in a colonialist spirit.

The foreign minister said these statements are unacceptable and meaningless. He referred to Egypt's role in securing Sudan's independence and asserted that the Egyptian call for integration and cooperation with Sudan does not constitute a colonialist scheme.

The foreign minister asked: Is the Sudanese regime's succor for extremists and its encouragement of weapon smuggling and terrorist infiltration of Egypt a response to this Egyptian quest to formulate a program of Arab solidarity?

He said the Sudanese regime must reconsider its accusations against Egypt, because they constitute a serious issue within the context of world developments.

'Amr Musa said Egypt wants to build a good, healthy, and sound relationship with Sudan and wants to safeguard Sudan's territorial integrity and its overall unity. He reemphasized Egypt's opposition to any attempt to separate southern Sudan or even to accept the very idea that there is a civil war there. He added that Egypt is against dictating any particular policy to the Sudanese.

Musa said Egypt has given the Sudanese Government several opportunities to preserve the two countries' relationship. He referred to Egypt's backing for Sudan and its voting in its favor at the IMF, the UN General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council, and the UN Human Rights Commission.

Asked about the prospect of resuming the dialogue between Cairo and Khartoum, 'Amr Musa announced that everything depends on the results of Addis Ababa's ongoing investigation into the assassination attempt.

The foreign minister refused to speculate on the likelihood of a military clash with Sudan in case the investigation proves that the Sudanese regime was involved in the attempt on President Mubarak's life. On this issue, Musa declared: "We will cross that bridge when we reach it."

He explained that the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute is not connected with the Hala'ib issue at this time. He explained that Hala'ib is only part of the problem, which includes the way Egyptians are treated in Sudan, the confiscation of Egyptian property in Sudan, and other issues.

'Amr Musa said the core of the dispute revolves around Sudan's policy, which everyone is describing as a policy that nurtures terrorism and attempts to spread it throughout the Arab and Islamic societies.

Musa reiterated Egypt's position on Hala'ib, namely, that it is Egyptian territory. He said: If Sudan has any claim on this area, then we are leaving the door open for a discussion of the issue, but not before the essential issue of terrorism is settled.

He noted that terrorism is at the core of the dispute between Sudan and several other African and Arab countries.

Asked about the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations, Musa did not rule out an agreement setting 25 July as a date for the Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank. This might happen and it might not, he said, adding: The basic thing is that much has been done by both sides; an agreement was reached on a considerable number of points; one important section remains to be resolved. He pointed out that there must be common security involving roles for both the Palestinians and Israelis.

The foreign minister said that four problems face these negotiations. They include: redeployment, on which agreement has been reached; empowerment, on which an agreement has almost been reached; and the elections, regarding which some points concerning Jerusalem, the members of the council to be elected, are yet to be resolved, he said. He added that the section concerning the Arab part of Jerusalem is proceeding toward agreement. The fourth problem is security. Is it joint security or one that is exclusive to the settlers? He said the security in question is that of the settlers and of the Arab towns and villages.

The foreign minister said that the establishment of Palestinian rule in all the major towns and villages of the West Bank is a step forward. He added that it is important for the Palestinians to move into the West Bank under terms proceeding toward the final phase, because this is Palestinian rule in Gaza and the heart of the Bank. With some organization, this can lead to the Palestinian people's assembly, including the people of Jerusalem, he remarked.

'Amr Musa told AL-NAHAR that Egypt backs the Palestinian stance and provides every assistance to help the Palestinians take one step after another and get the best terms, taking the international, Palestinian, and Israeli conditions into consideration.

The foreign minister said the Palestinian position is different from the Syrian, the Lebanese, and Jordanian positions. This requires all the Arabs to back the Palestinians at a stage in which the Israeli Government seems to seek an agreement and shows readiness to reach a solution to the region's problem, he said.

Touching on the Syrian-Israeli track, the foreign minister said the ongoing negotiations are progressing. He denied the failure of the talks U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross held recently in Damascus and Tel Aviv, adding that the negotiations are facing some difficulties.

The foreign minister refused to describe the Lebanese-Israeli track as "frozen" or "shelved." It is one of the dishes yet to be served at the negotiating table, he remarked.

He added that the link between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks is Lebanese business. They decide what happens about it and we must respect their will, he said.

Sudanese Diplomats' Families Leave for Khartoum

NC2007101295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0850 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Some 115 members of the families of Sudanese diplomats stationed in Cairo left for Khartoum early this morning on board an Egypt Air flight.

Khartoum earlier summoned the families of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo—around 290 people.

The plane leaving for Khartoum carried 190 passengers, 115 of them family members of Sudanese diplomats. The rest were of different nationalities.

Iraq Minister, Musa Review UNSC Resolutions

JN1907105095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0645 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry yesterday.

The two sides reviewed Iraq's implementation of its obligations under the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained with figures, documents, and facts how Iraq has implemented its obligations to the United Nations and Iraq's stand calling for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 as soon as possible and without delay.

The minister also stated that work with the UN Special Commission cannot continue on an unclear basis and that the Special Commission should end its work as quickly as possible and before the end of August. The minister also said that the commission should submit its report to the UNSC so that the council would fulfill its obligation of lifting the embargo on Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The two sides also reviewed the current Arab situation and exchanged viewpoints on many regional and international issues of mutual interest. Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, also attended the meeting.

'Slow Improvement' Seen in Relations With Iraq

MM1907141295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 95 p 7

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Official Egyptian Agency Transmits Saddam's Speech; Egyptian-Jordanian Summit Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan will hold a meeting in Alexandria within days amid indications of a move to clear the Arab air.

Egyptian-Iraqi relations are witnessing a gradual improvement. Contacts are being made between the federations of the chambers of commerce and industry and businessmen's associations in Egypt and Iraq. The Iraqi federations have requested that the two countries conclude deals directly, not via a third party, namely Jordan, as happened with regard to trade contracts signed over the past three years.

Official Egyptian sources confirmed that the talks between Mubarak and King Husayn will deal with developments in the peace process and the future of regional cooperation before the economic summit of the Middle East states and North Africa, scheduled to be held in Amman in October. The talks will also touch on Iraq in the light of its fulfillment of the obligations stipulated in the Security Council resolutions.

Observers in the Egyptian capital expect an improvement to occur in relations between Cairo and Baghdad before the Amman summit. Algeria has joined forces in efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received an official invitation from the Algerian Government to visit Algeria at the beginning of next month to hold talks with President Liamine Zeroual and Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri concerning conditions in the region and the League's efforts to clear the air and achieve Arab reconciliation.

The invitation was handed over by Algeria's representative to the league, Ambassador Mustafa Cherif, during his meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday.

Cherif said that he discussed with the secretary general the Arab efforts to clear the air and his country's request to reinforce joint Arab action. He said: "All conditions are favorable for achieving Arab reconciliation," commending the extensive efforts being made by 'Abd-al-Majid.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Cairo from Morocco yesterday. He will hold a press conference at midday today following his talks with 'Abd-al-Majid and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

Among the indications of the existence of a slow improvement in relations between Cairo and Baghdad is the fact that a large number of Egyptian figures attended the Iraqi Embassy ceremony the evening before last to mark the Ba'th Party's assumption of power in Iraq. Among those who attended the ceremony were the League's secretary general; Egyptian party leaders, including Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, and a number of opposition party leaders; plus Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and two military experts, namely Major General Ahmad 'Abd-al-Halim and Maj. Gen. Tal'at Musallam.

It is noteworthy that the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency [MENA] transmitted the evening before last — for the first time since the Gulf crisis — a speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn on the same occasion.

Observers note that Egyptian media services have not excessively attacked Iraq for the Iraqi media's rejoicing at the attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa last month. Articles in the Egyptian press have focused on the Iraqi people's suffering and Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning the removal of mass-destruction weapons. There is a prevalent belief that al-Sahhaf will express to Egyptian officials his regret for the views expressed through Iraqi media services.

'Sources' View Islamic Meeting on Bosnia

NC2007140895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1305 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will lead an Egyptian delegation from Cairo to Geneva on 21 July to attend the Islamic Contact Group meeting.

At its extraordinary meeting, the group will discuss Bosnia in light of the Serbian attack on the safe areas and the fall of most of these areas into the hands of the Serbian forces.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry said the meeting's participants favor taking practical, challenging measures, especially since the arms embargo on Bosnia deprives it of its legitimate individual and collective rights to confront the aggression, particularly as the Serbian aggression has exceeded all limits of barbarism.

The sources added that the UN performance in Bosnia will be studied seriously to prevent its failings from continuing and to prevent the innocent sons of Bosnia from paying for these failings with their lives.

The Foreign Ministry sources further said the international Contact Group meeting is being held amid an unprecedented international ineptness on the part of the major powers. They added that although some major powers have mentioned restoring Srebrenica to its previous status and stopping the Serbian aggression, no action has yet been taken on this. The countries participating in the Islamic Contact Group meeting are therefore responsible for confronting the deterioration in Bosnia.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Senegal, Morocco, and Pakistan will take part in the Islamic Contract Group meetings.

Papers Urge Adopting Policy

NC2007080695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0503 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has stated that Egypt is the only country never to have hesitated over warning those responsible for world security against the consequences of doing nothing about massacres that claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Bosnian Muslim people.

In its editorial today it notes that the world is content to show regret and utter hollow words, which have become the object of mockery by the aggressor Serb forces. These words, it adds, prompt them to further defy the United Nations and the Security Council to the point of killing and seizing members of the international peacekeeping forces and taking them hostage.

The paper refers to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's message to the Security Council in which he demanded, in the name of Egypt, the Council's immediate intervention to halt the massacres in Bosnia. It says the message conveyed to the world the truest picture of the tragedy the Muslim Bosnian people have been suffering for years at the hands of Tartars and Mongols.

The paper says it expects 'Amr Musa's message to form the basis on which the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, due to be held in Geneva on Saturday [22 July], will draw its resolutions when it discusses Bosnia's bloody tragedy.

AL-AHRAM says Egypt's call to the Security Council to act immediately to halt the Serb advance resulted in a frail resolution asking the Serbs to withdraw from Zepa. The United Nations, it adds, has declared Zepa a safe area; other areas are falling to the Serbs one by one.

The paper asks in whose interest the Security Council is content to issue resolutions not worth the paper they are written on. It also asks: Is the international community now impotent when it comes to facing a group of murderers and criminals?

The paper emphasizes that the onus is on the group of Islamic countries now that the international community's inaction, which has reached the point of collusion, has become clear.

The paper asks the Islamic countries to adopt a resolute and firm position that will take the initiative and seize the responsibility from the inactive international community.

Libya

JANA Editor Criticizes Clinton Report

LD1907220195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a report presented to Congress, the U.S. President said that Libya still constitutes an exceptional and abnormal threat to U.S. national security and to U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. President's report, in which he announced the extension of the economic embargo against the Great Jamahiriyah for another year, said that the U.S. Government believes that the UN Security Council must impose the most severe sanctions on Libya if it continues in what he claims is defiance of the international community.

The JANA political editor commented on this saying: The United States still does not hesitate to repeat what it describes as Libya's threat to U.S. national security, at a time when the whole world—and America itself—is aware that a small, peace-loving country like Libya, from which it is separated by thousands of miles, is in no way able to threaten the security of a superpower which possesses an unlimited arsenal of deadly weapons of destruction.

The editor added that the whole world, as it follows this U.S. raving, must be looking at this matter with increasing derision and scorn for a superpower which has reached such a degree of aggression against a peace-loving people who believe in the independent construction of development without dependency or guardianship.

The political editor made an essential observation which can be summarized by making a connection between this U.S. procedure which has continued since 1986 and the unjust sanctions imposed in the name of the UN Security Council since 1992, which confirms that U.S. planning was carefully prepared beforehand against Libya, with the aim of attaining specific goals.

The editor added that, at a time when we observe the escalation of the U.S aggressive stance against the Great Jamahiriyah through the fabrication of baseless pretexts, we can appreciate the extent to which successive U.S. governments have exploited the Security Council in order to carry through their aggressive plans against peaceful peoples. This in itself doubtless constitutes a continuous threat to stability and security in the world.

The JANA political editor ended his commentary by saying: This U.S. procedure confirms that the U.S. Government has not learned from past mistakes made by successive U.S. Governments with regard to the peoples of the world, and that it has come to constitute a veto on the independence, freedom, and progress of peoples, causing great damage to the interests of the U.S. people. This highlights the extent of the dangers which such U.S. policies have come to pose toward relations which must prevail between the peoples of the world.

He called for greater solidarity among the world's states to confront this U.S. vainglory and arrogance in order to protect the future, stability, and security of peoples.

Islamic Command: Bosnia Crimes 'Barbaric'

LD1907144695 Tripoli JANA in English
1421 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Statement by the executive bureau of the Universal Islamic Popular Command regarding the "atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina"; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The barbaric crusader onslaught against Islam and Muslims is intensifying as children, women and elderly people are being slaughtered and others expelled in Bosnia-Herzegovina for no other reason except that they are Muslims, looking for a free and dignified life.

This is taking place in full view of the United Nations troops and with the blessing of the super powers and the so-called Security Council, which has adopted a duplicity of standards and only implements its resolutions against Muslims. The only action it takes is to call on Muslims for self-restraint as if these atrocious massacres and mass cleansing of Muslims does not constitute a threat to international peace and security.

As the executive bureau alerts the Muslim masses to this catastrophe befalling their Muslim brethren in Bosnia-Herzegovina it reminds them that their destiny will be the same destiny if they do not take serious steps to counter this onslaught and act towards halting the mass cleansing of Muslims.

The United Nations and its instruments are becoming an instrument of repressive tyranny against the Muslims.

Morocco

Libyan Official on Maghreb, Banghazi Events

MM1807150595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 4

[Interview with Sa'd Mujbir, foreign affairs secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress, by Munsif al-Sulaymi in Rabat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sulaymi] What is the purpose of your visit to Rabat?

[Mujbir] There is a constant dialogue and consultation going on at parliamentary level between us and the brother members of the Moroccan parliament on matters of bilateral and regional cooperation. We are now working on the activation of the Union of Arab Parliaments whose current session is under the presidency of Morocco. The Union of Arab Parliaments held its last conference three months ago.

During my deliberations with the officials of the Moroccan parliament, headed by its speaker, we discussed the question of coordination among the Arab parliaments in the light of the conference of the African Parliamentary Union which is due to be held toward the end of the current month at Ouagadougou and also in the light of the coming conference of the International Parliamentary Union which is scheduled to convene in Bucharest next October.

We have a good relationship with Morocco, the president of the current session of the Union of Arab Parliaments, as well as close cooperation, consultation, and coordination on bilateral and Arab Maghreb levels. We constantly work to highlight the Moroccan role and shall continue to do so at the forthcoming parliamentary conference and at other such events on the African and international levels.

[Al-Sulaymi] What about the visit which 'Abd-al-Majid al- Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee (i.e. the prime minister), recently paid to Algeria? Was a security agreement to tackle the question of infiltration by elements of armed groups signed during the visit?

[Mujbir] Libya's interests center first on pan-Arab matters, then on Maghreb matters, and finally on bilateral matters. We work with the brothers in Algeria to serve our mutual good on both the Arab and bilateral levels. Hence, al-Qa'ud's visit falls within the framework of the contacts that take place between the two countries on all levels. Indeed, numerous meetings and consultations have taken place between [Algerian] President Liamine Zeroual and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. These contacts are constant and continuous and cover the conditions in the Arab Maghreb, the Palestine question, and cooperation in the fields of industry, trade, and security.

As to the reports about the infiltration of armed elements across Libyan territory to Algeria, they are mere balderdash and irresponsible attempts to sow the seeds of sedition and suspicion between the two countries.

[Al-Sulaymi] But the talk about a security agreement between the two countries implies that there were problems that necessitated the conclusion of the agreement. Is it not so?

[Mujbir] Libya could never become a passage for infiltrators into any neighboring country. Libya is not a party to the conditions prevailing in the neighboring countries. We cannot have anything to do with these events and problems of religious extremism because our political system does not marginalize anyone, but rather enables all citizens to participate in running the affairs of power and in determining their own fate by themselves. So we do not have any center of power for people or factions to fight over, or turn against or aggress upon. For authority is divided among 350 popular conferences and executive people committees.

[Al-Sulaymi] Can you give us any clarification about the recent events in Banghazi? What is the reason for the decision taken by the General People's Congress concerning the introduction of new measures in the fields of security and justice?

[Mujbir] The trouble with you Arab journalists is that you rely on the versions of reports disseminated by the foreign journalists, who are ignorant of the true conditions in Libya and know nothing about the mechanism of authority and government in Libya. Had they known what was happening, they would have realized that Libya has no parliament but a General People's Congress, which makes major decisions that are not instantaneous or circumstantial. As to the decision you are talking about, it goes back to three months ago. It was put forward by the people's conferences to the General People's Congress. It was decided then to bolster the measures of security and justice against organized crime, drugs, and atheism.

At present, there are new problems and phenomena such as smuggling and foreign infiltration involving about 3 million people in addition to economic pressures caused by the international embargo and the drop in the prices of oil. As a result of all this, we in Libya are no longer able to tolerate these problems and thus it became necessary to deal with these matters and not leave them unchecked.

With regard to the Banghazi events, I was away during the past few days in Moscow on an official visit. I believe that the incident in Banghazi was a single and isolated one. But the foreign media wanted to turn it into a phenomenon and to magnify it within the framework of a distorted information campaign against the Libyan regime, just as they have done in the matter of the alleged disappearance of the accused in the Lockerbie incident and the alleged events at Misrata.... All these are campaigns of distortion and allegation. But we, as people and as leadership, are solidly united in Libya and have firm positions, and the procession marches forward in any case.

[Al-Sulaymi] Was the matter connected with incidents actually committed by some Arabs, Sudanese, and Egyptians or what exactly? What are the dimensions of the incident?

[Mujbir] A single and isolated case has taken place here as it can take place anywhere. The culprits were a group of outlaws, be they Libyans or non—Libyan Arabs, Muslims or foreigners. Unfortunately, there are some people who feel happy to see Libya fall into a syndrome of violence. But I wish to affirm that there are no marginalized factions in Libya so that organized or religious violence may take place.

All probabilities are possible with regard to those who committed the isolated incident in Banghazi. In any case, it was an isolated incident and not a phenomenon or a case. No so-called religious violence like we see taking place in the countries of the region can happen in Libya. This is because the circumstances and conditions leading to such violence do not exist in Libya. It is unlikely that such violence would ever take place in Libya.

[Al-Sulaymi] Do not you think that the opposition Libyan Salvation Front abroad could have influenced the course of events with regard to the recent incidents?

[Mujbir] The Salvation Front has been in existence since 1980, and it has been carrying out activities, but it did not do anything worthwhile inside Libya. This is because it is not possible to lead a war or stage a confrontation against a specific regime by managing them from abroad. Furthermore, change in Libya can only be brought about through the regime's channels and precisely through the people's conferences, which play their full role and have the power to criticize the practices and behaviors of the responsible officials and the administration. It would be wrong to imagine that Col. al-Qadhdhafi holds power in his hands because the facts of reality point differently.

[Al-Sulaymi] Do you believe that the involvement of Sudanese or Egyptian elements in the Banghazi incident will have any effect on Tripoli's relations with Khartoum or Cairo?

[Mujbir] The involvement of Sudanese or Egyptian elements in these events will not affect our relations with Egypt and Sudan because we cannot lay the blame for acts committed by individuals on entire states and peoples and because Libyans themselves occasionally commit contraventions.

If it is established that some people have been crossing Libyan territory into other countries with whom we are bound by agreements such as Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria and we catch them red-headed, then we will have no mercy on them. But if we catch some people who want to cause harm to the Libyan regime, then we will pass deterrent sentences against them.

The fact that such culprits are Sudanese or Egyptians does not mean that Egypt, Sudan or any other country for that matter was behind what is happening, because they in turn are going through similar events. Furthermore, our relations with these countries are not so fragile that they would begin to shake or be harmed because of the actions of some individuals.

[Al-Sulaymi] The Arab Maghreb foreign ministers council has recently discussed the need for coordination among their countries with regard to security problems, and at the same time the Arab Maghreb Union has been facing objections by the European countries to its dealing with Libya. How can this problem be resolved?

[Mujbir] There is a great deal of hypocrisy in the political speeches of the European countries which claim that they do not want to deal with Libya, because, in fact, they are dealing with Libya on a bilateral basis. There is bilateral cooperation between them and the other Arab Maghreb countries, but on an individual basis.

We have, for example, relations with Britain and there are 7,000 [British] experts and employees in Libya. Why the hypocrisy then? I believe that the Arab Maghreb countries should understand that the objection is against dealing with the Arab Maghreb Union and its existence as a regional structure for integration and coordination. The objection is not against Libya as a state.

The European countries and the United States itself are competing over the Libyan market and the Libyan oil. We have been formally invited to attend the forthcoming Mediterranean Cooperation and Security Conference which will be held in Malta. How can it be rationally said then that we are not acceptable at the Barcelona conference? All that there is, is that the European countries reject the Arab Maghreb Union and the idea of integration among its members.

The ones who are really harmed by the embargo imposed on Libya are the Arab countries and the countries of Eastern Europe in addition to Russia and Italy, which used to be the number one trade partner of Libya. As to the European countries and the United States, we have large-scale trade and economic relations with them. We get U.S. arms through the black market and our oil reaches it in the same way. As to Britain, it now has experts and workers in the Libyan oil fields.

It is the West European-American side which refuses to agree to initiatives and compromises put forward for resolving the Lockerbie crisis, such as having the trial held in the Hague and its being considered by Scottish judges. It is in Libya's interest that the trial should take place as soon as possible, because it is not right to punish a people and neighboring states because of two men. But the trial should take place under conditions that preserve dignity and in accordance with the dictates of justice and fairness. We do not ask for anything more than this. We are not seeking a confrontation with any side and we do not want to challenge any side.

*USFP Official Comments on Visit to Libya

95AF0115A Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 6 Jun 95 pp 1,3

["Reprint" of interview with Mohammed al-Yazghi by unidentified correspondents of THE INDEPENDENT;

place and date not given: "We Still Raise Our Voices Against the Embargo on Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The London newspaper THE INDEPENDENT conducted an interview with Brother Mohammed al-Yazghi, first deputy secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] after his return from the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He had visited there as part of a Moroccan delegation which included several political and union figures to express solidarity with Libya against the criminal embargo imposed on it. The text of the interview follows.

[THE INDEPENDENT] You were part of a Moroccan delegation which recently visited Libya. What was the motive of the visit? Was it a personal or group initiative, or was there an invitation?

[Al-Yazghi] Of course you know that after the unjust embargo resolution against our brother Libya, a national Moroccan committee was established to support the Libyan people. It was formed by the four democratic parties along with the central committees of all Morocco's unions.

On one hand, this committee expresses the view of the Moroccan people on this issue and making Moroccan public opinion aware of what the Libyan people—and even we in Morocco—are enduring because of the embargo. It also publishes statements for the North African and Arab public, as well as Western public opinion, especially for those concerned with the lifting of this embargo. In this context, the democratic parties and leadership of the unions decided to send a mission to Libya to express the solidarity of the Moroccan people with the Libyan people right on the spot, to acquaint our Libyan brothers with the position of Morocco's political and labor organizations, and to listen to our Libyan brothers to learn about the effects of the embargo, how the Libyan people are enduring the embargo, and what issues it brings up. Also this was to exchange information about our conditions in Morocco.

[THE INDEPENDENT] So the visit was undertaken on a personal and group initiative, not after an invitation?

[Al-Yazghi] It was pretty much mutual. Our Libyan brothers have always wanted the Moroccan parties to visit, but the initiative was Moroccan.

The Embargo and Its Effects

[THE INDEPENDENT] How did you find the Libyan people's conditions to be under the embargo?

[Al-Yazghi] The unjust embargo is hurting the Libyan people. On one hand, all imported goods come into the Libyan market at higher prices. There are some essential needs in the field of medicine, for example, and certain other commodities, and some badly needed spare parts for industry and for some Libyan institutions which they have a hard time acquiring. On top of that, in some sensitive fields things are just miserable. For example, if a Libyan patient has a condition that has reached a serious stage that requires his admission to a foreign hospital, that is not possible. It is hard to transport a patient 1,500 km by land to Tunis or Cairo or to send him on to Rome, Paris, or elsewhere.

Good Morale, But...

[THE INDEPENDENT] Faced with this, how is the morale of the people there?

[Al-Yazghi] By God, their morale is high, but naturally they are disappointed by the fact that the Arab Maghreb countries have also accepted the imposition of sanctions. They consider Libya to be one of the Arab Maghreb countries, and these countries constitute one regional unit within which it must be; yet there is an air embargo.

[THE INDEPENDENT] In addition to disappointment at the Maghrebi position, what, in your opinion, are the Libyan leadership's political positions and analyses?

[Al-Yazghi] The Libyans believe they have taken a flexible and moderate position regarding the handing over of two wanted men. What the Libyans have asked is that there be real guarantees in their trial, that they not be tried in the United States or Britain, where there are campaigns against Arabs and Muslims. This could influence the trial process; we see how blacks are tried in America.

They propose they either be handed over to the Arab League or have them tried in the Hague by the International Court of Justice, or in Switzerland, or elsewhere, but the governments of the three Western countries absolutely rejected this.

[THE INDEPENDENT] What are your personal impressions of the situation of the Libyan people?

[Al-Yazghi] The situation of the Libyan people is based on this embargo and its psychological effect, even though all commodities are available. The Libyan market has no deficiencies. Libya is a country with six African or Maghreb neighbors, so it is easy to get there from abroad. There are everyday needs for Libya's economic development and scientific research, and the needs of industry also require exchange with the industrialized countries, most of which are Western. This is impossible with the embargo in effect, and this has a negative effect on the pace of development, which has slowed. Productivity is slow, as some industries are working at 25 or 30 percent of their actual capacity.

There are companies totally idled, such as the airlines, despite the operation of internal routes.

Closing of Moroccan-Algerian Border Is Another Problem

[THE INDEPENDENT] If the political leadership in Libya is offended or disappointed by the Maghrebi position, what is the position the Maghrebi countries ought to adopt now?

[Al-Yazghi] No. They wish the countries of the Maghreb had a different position, but they are not offended because these countries, with Egypt, are the ones that have stayed by Libya's side more than any other countries in the world. There are no other countries on the side of the Libyan people in the way the countries of the Arab Maghreb are. On the contrary, they are more pleased with Morocco than with any other country. In this context, they recall that the closing of the border between them and Algeria hurts them and creates another embargo because there was economic and human continuity between Morocco and Libya, which ended, unfortunately, with the closure of the Moroccan-Algerian border. It is the responsibility of the Algerian Government to lift this internal embargo.

[THE INDEPENDENT] Are you in the national parties and organizations contemplating initiatives on Libya's behalf?

[Al-Yazghi] We are continuing to raise our voices in calls for the lifting of this unjust embargo and also for our government to do its duty and lift the embargo. If the embargo should be prolonged, the governments of the Arab Maghreb must make a decision not to implement the Security Council resolution on airlines' internal flights between us and Libya.

The Union Is Inoperative

[THE INDEPENDENT] Your trip with the delegation surely enabled you to sample the atmosphere of the Arab Maghreb. What are your impressions of our union in light of this embargo and in light of the circumstances of this union?

[Al-Yazghi] It was a short visit, but what is absolutely for sure and certain is that the Arab Maghreb Union is inoperative, and many agreements ratified by the parliaments of the Maghreb Union remain unimplemented. The pace of setting up institutions is also slow. The Maghreb Consultative Council still has not met, and this is Morocco's fault because Morocco still has not appointed its representatives to the Council. So the democratic parties have for some time been demanding the appointment of representatives to this Council.

It is true that we did reproach the Libyans because our brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi did not undertake his responsibilities when the Council presidency was Libya's. We said at the time that this was a political mistake, as it was their duty to take over the presidency as stipulated in the provisions of the Marrakech Accord of 1989, but they also have special considerations relating to the embargo; it is difficult for the Libyan president to take up his duties and receive the heads of state of other countries in the Arab Maghreb, who would be compelled to travel long distances by land—at least 350 kilometers.

Continuity Despite Tough Circumstances

[THE INDEPENDENT] You in the national parties understand well and analyze the problems facing the Maghreb Union. You in the Maghreb Union had initiatives in this regard, vis-a-vis mobilizing Maghreb parties to take action to get the Union moving. How far did these initiatives get? Will you keep them moving?

[Al-Yazghi] We are continuing in this and in our faith in the unity of the Arab Maghreb. I believe we must have the idea that the question of building the Arab Maghreb is not the responsibility of governments alone. It requires, and is based upon, coordination and cooperation. The strengthening of relations among popular organizations is basic to the unity of the Arab Maghreb in terms of political organizations, trade union, professional, youth, and other organizations. In fact, the democratic parties had initiatives, such as visits to Algeria on the eve of the elections, and at the time we invited the Algerian parties to visit us in turn. This was also the case with our brothers in Tunisia, where we as democratic parties had ongoing relations, even though for us in the Socialist Union we found an inconsistent stand on the part of the Constitutional Grouping's leadership in a recent meeting of African parties. We also have good relations with the Mauritanian parties. This is what inclined our parties to pay attention to what is happening in Algeria and to appeal to our brothers for national reconciliation in April of last year, which we reaffirmed recently on the anniversary of the Tangiers Conference. The unity of the Arab Maghreb, then, has two solutions.

The governments and official institutions must play a role, and there must be a basic popular role.

[THE INDEPENDENT] Do you now believe in the ability of popular action, represented in the organizations and parties, to put pressure the governments and official institutions to get past the stalemate and speed up the pace of reconciliation?

[Al-Yazghi] We are trying, and we are trying constantly in the appeals and interventions of our deputies in parliament, as well as in the democratic parties' media, which criticizes the governments' inability and slowness when it comes to any pro-unity action. We also call attention to problems and propose solutions and alternatives, which may speed up the building of the Union of the Arab Maghreb.

Real Solidarity Needed

[THE INDEPENDENT] Given the unjust embargo on Libya, what is needed in Arab terms?

[Al-Yazghi] What is needed in Arab terms is for there to be real solidarity with our Libyan brothers. It is just not reasonable for the Arab countries and governments to accept the embargo imposed on Libya. The Western countries that need Libyan oil are transporting it, and yet the Western countries are embargoing this country to prevent it from developing and advancing economically, socially, and culturally. Arab and Islamic solidarity requires the Arab and Islamic countries to take serious and strong action toward the three Western countries to put an end to this unjust embargo.

Sudan

Rebels Release UN Relief Workers

AB1907134095 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, July 19 (AFP) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army (SPLM/A) has released three UN relief workers it had held hostage in southern Sudan since June 7, SPLM/A spokesman Stephen Wondu announced here on Wednesday [19 July].

Wondu told journalists that the three—two Sudanese nationals and a South African of Indian origin—were released in the southern Sudanese town of Chukdum at 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Wednesday and were on their way to the Sudan-Kenya border where they would be received by UN representatives.

Ethiopian Official Cited on Attackers' Identities

EA1907180895 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ethiopian foreign minister, Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, has said that investigations have proved that the people who carried out the recent assassination attempt on Egypt's president in Addis Ababa were Egyptian. He [Mesfin] announced that his government had not issued any report at the end of the investigations. In a statement he made during a visit to Qatar, his excellency announced that as long as there is insufficient evidence the Ethiopian Government will not single out any quarter for blame. He said such issues called for patience and hard work.

The Ethiopian minister called on both Sudan and Egypt to submit their case to the International Court of Justice in order to resolve the outstanding conflict over the Hala'ib triangle, thereby avoiding escalations and tensions which presently characterize relations between the two countries.

Minister Reiterates Policy on Hala'ib

EA2007100595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishop Gabriel Rorech, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, has renewed Sudan's commitment to dealing with the Hala'ib issue within the framework of internationally recognized laws. In an interview today with Italian television, he reviewed the southern problem and highlighted the failure of previous governments to solve it.

Bishop Rorech dealt with the efforts being exerted by the National Salvation Revolution to find peaceful solutions to the issue through dialogue. He highlighted the initiatives that have been carried out in this respect, in addition to the efforts being made to establish peace from within.

The minister of state at the Foreign Ministry affirmed the government's commitment to negotiation within the framework of a unified Sudan. He renewed Sudan's rejection of claims for secession and self-determination. He said: The war that is going on in the south is a political one and not a religious one, as it is being propagated by hostile circles.

Independent Paper Resumes Publication

AB1907214495 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 19 (AFP) — The independent newspaper AKHIR KHABAR resumed publishing Wednesday [19 July] after 18 days of suspension by the state-run national council for press and publications.

The daily, in a front-page news item, said Wednesday it was appearing once again on an order by the council lifting the suspension imposed July 1 for an article criticising the press act and its effect on press institutions.

The daily quoted Amin Hassan Omar, the presidential press adviser, as stressing the freedom of the press "and the keenness of the state's official organs not to suspend newspapers nor intervene in the editorial policies of those papers."

Tunisia

Minister Signs Parternship Agreement With EU

LD1707144395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new European-Mediterranean agreement was signed today that established a partnership between the Republic of Tunisia and the European Union and its member countries.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and the Spanish foreign affairs minister on the one hand and the deputy commissioner of the European commission on the other. The signing ceremony took place at the headquarters of the EU in Brussels in the presence of the foreign ministers of the EU's member countries.

Parliament Lifts Ban on Satellite Dishes

LD1907145995 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Satellite dishes are once again allowed in Tunisia. Their installation was suspended seven months ago. The Tunisian parliament adopted a new law yesterday authorizing the installation of satellite dishes, but voted against an annual tax of between 100 and 400 francs.

Kuwait

Minister Announces Border Accord With Saudi Arabia

LD1907102795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0833 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 19 Jul — Kuwait announced that it has agreed with Saudi Arabia on "specific points" within the efforts to "demarcate the common maritime borders."

In a statement to KUNA following his return to Kuwait last night from Jeddah after a short visit, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said "technicians from both countries will follow up those points in subsequent meetings."

Shaykh Sabah expressed his deep satisfaction with his meeting with Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. He said: "During the meeting, we discussed the importance of concluding the issue of demarcating the common maritime borders with a common vision and in a brotherly and positive spirit."

Shaykh Sabah remarked that on the Saudi side the meeting was attended by "my brother Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Ibrahim al-'Anqari, King Fahd's personal adviser, and Hisham Nazir, minister of oil and mineral resources."

Shaykh Sabah added that his visit to Jeddah was "a realization of the two fraternal countries' common desire to settle this issue."

Shaykh Sabah said he made this visit after receiving a letter from Prince Sultan, which Minister Nazir delivered to him during his visit to Kuwait last Wednesday.

Official Says Russia's Kozyrev To Visit in Aug

NC1807141795 Paris AFP in English 1358 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuwait City, July 18 (AFP)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is due to travel to Kuwait and Iraq in August, a senior Kuwaiti official said here Tuesday [18 July].

Kozyrev's visit was prepared by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk who ended a two-day trip to Kuwait, a Kuwaiti foreign ministry official, Suleyman al-Shahin, told AFP.

"Maybe he is trying to convince them to give a full account of their biological program," he said.

Russia has been urging Iraq to comply with UN resolutions that will lead to a lifting of sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. [passage omitted]

Oman

Article Examines Rise of Islamist Movement

95LH0181A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jun 95 pp 29-31

[Article by Dr. Ahmad Yusuf: "Sultanate of Oman One Year After Arrest of Islamic Youth; Confrontation With Islamists: True Motives and Solution Prospects"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—According to the latest census, Oman's population amounts to nearly 1.6 million people. A half million of them are foreigners who provide labor and specialized skills in the areas of education and oil industries. Population density is centered in Muscat, the capital; al-Batinah Coast; and the interior.

The majority of Oman's population comes from Arab tribes. A number of the well-known modern tribes descend from the famous Azad tribes that emigrated from Yemen when the Ma'rib Dam collapsed.

Large minorities of Baluchis (from Baluchistan, a part of present-day Pakistan) are found in the country, in addition to a small Shi'ite minority from Indian extraction. Members of these minorities speak their native tongues, in addition to Arabic. As a result of past emigrations of large numbers of Omani citizens to East Africa during the Omani presence there, there are large groups of Omani immigrants whose blood has mixed with African blood there. Many of these immigrants, or their children, have returned to Oman and they use Swahili as their second language. There is no declared census of the ethnic or denominational distribution of Oman's population. Therefore, it is difficult to offer percentages in this regard. However, it can be estimated that al-Abadiyah constitute 50-60 percent of the population; the Sunnis (whether from Arab or other extraction) constitute 37-47 percent; and Shi'ites nearly 3 percent. Sunni concentrations are found in southern Dhofar Province, the eastern area, al-Batinah Coast, and Northern Oman. Al-Abadiyah are concentrated in the interior (Central Oman), eastern area, al-Batinah Coast, and al-Zahirah (Western Oman).

It is worth noting that all states and dynasties that have ruled Oman, including Al Sa'id, the current ruling family, have been from the Abadiyah denomination. It is noticed that the current government tries to establish some sort of balance between the various minorities and denominations through the appointment of ministers and high-ranking government officials. This balance is evident in the ministers' representation of the various ethnic groups and denominations found in the country.

Perhaps it is fair to say that Oman's Consultative Council experiment is somewhat successful when compared with the other Gulf states (excluding Kuwait). The council is semielected, and it has the right to summon ministers for public debates that are broadcast by the media. However, the council's powers are limited. It is not permitted to debate the budget, defense affairs, or the country's administrative and social corruption. Some observers believe that the government plans to develop the Consultative Council gradually, transforming it over a long period of time to a fully elected council. Subsequently, its powers will grow to include most legislative and control aspects. However, this depends, of course, on the sultan's conviction that such development will not undermine his control of the country or will threaten the country's form of government generally.

Islamic Tendency: Sudden Arrests and Questions

The modern Islamic tendency is divided fundamentally into two factions: the Abadiyah faction and the Islamic movement. Even though there are small groups of Ancestralists and evident activity by the Call and Conveyance Group, these groups have a limited influence in comparison with two main factions. We will focus here on the Islamic tendency movement.

The Islamic movement's beginnings date back to the mid-1970's when large numbers of Omani students returned home upon graduating from Arab and Western universities outside Oman. It is likely that, during their studies abroad, those students became familiar with the Islamic movement's philosophy and that they came in contact with some movement adherents in the countries where they studied. This phenomenon was not exclusive to Oman. The other Gulf states experienced similar changes. With the passage of time, the number of those students and their interaction grew. It is noticed that this group of Islamists includes most of Oman's ethnic groups and tribes and that it represents most parts of the country.

From the outset, this group of Islamists realized that the sultanate's political and security conditions did not permit many of the actions and activities carried out by similar Islamic movements in other countries. This is why Oman's Islamic movement has been characterized by a calm approach and by a call for reform that could be compatible with the given facts of Oman's real situation. The movement has merged in a balanced way in the political and economic life and has avoided the manifestations of prominent influence and strength. It can be said that the main goals of Oman's Islamic movement have not swerved from the framework of raising models and generations that believe in Islam as a faith and a system of life and that are characterized by probity, uprightness, and superiority in their fields of work. The movement has also avoided any form of confrontation or conflict that could anger the government against it.

In fact, nearly two decades after those modest beginnings, these good models began to emerge and to bear fruit in the Omani society. They occupied numerous middle-level positions in the government and came close to some high-ranking positions. The country's general education sector also included a large number of these young men who are a fruit of the Islamic movement. This is in addition to a considerable number of mosque preachers and imams.

The confrontation on which the government embarked on 21 May 1994 was a surprise to all observers and people familiar with the secrets of Oman's situation. There were no indications or forewarnings of the large-scale security activity carried out by the regime. The homes of many Islamists were raided by night, and Islamists were arrested in a rude and rough manner to which the Omani society had not been accustomed. The raids were followed by the detention and interrogation of more than 200 teachers, merchants, government employees, and some prominent statesmen.

Reports by human rights organizations show that the security authorities employed various kinds of arbitrary intimidation and physical and psychological torture of which the Omani people had never heard before, thus evoking astonishment, amazement, and denunciation. The arrested individuals belong to a select group of good people who are attested to be devoted to their work; who have excellent social connections and relations; and who enjoy a good reputation and a prominent place among the populace. Moreover, many of them belong to well-known families and tribes.

There are numerous interpretations and opinions as to the reasons that motivated the government to embark on such strange arbitrary measures and to launch the security campaign that had no real and clear justifications, it seems. Some people have noted that external elements and influences imposed those actions on the Omani Government— actions that contrast with the government's reasonable policies and with its eagerness not to provoke problems, whether domestic or foreign. Some have attributed the actions to the visit that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak made to the Gulf states (including Oman) and that immediately preceded those developments. During the visit, Mubarak spoke openly in his press conferences about the need to confront Islamic fundamentalism decisively and to liquidate it in the region's countries! What gives this hypothesis some strength is the existing and ever-growing security cooperation and coordination between Egyptian security authorities and their counterparts in some Gulf states.

Some observers have also noted the new international tendency, supported by the United States on Zionist instigation, to confront the Islamic tide. Some U.S. papers have, for example, published the outcome of President Clinton's visit to the Vatican, which included an agreement to unite the efforts to confront the Islamic phenomenon. These [Gulf] states, each in its own way, have begun to respond to these international tendencies, fabricating some incidents to underline their compliance with, adherence to, and satisfaction with this tendency.

The domestic interpretations of the confrontation include, among other things, the Yemeni factor. The Yemeni developments and the outcome of the war, which has kept Yemen's unity firm and strong, have been tantamount to a major blow to the Gulf tendencies that supported the south's secessionist movement officially. Oman has been one of the south's biggest supporters, before and after the developments. If we add to this picture the growing role of the Islamic movement in Yemen and this movement's support for and defense of unity, we can understand why a state like Oman felt challenged by the Islamic tendencies and why the Gulf states fear the future influences these tendencies will have on the stability of their political systems.

However, the strongest domestic interpretation is found in the nature of Oman's political system and of the security policy embraced by the government generally. The political line the regime has followed throughout its rule is not to permit any party to present an ideological or cultural alternative that differs from or contrasts with the government tendencies. The general tendency of the Omani Government is to march rapidly down the path of complete Westernization, beginning with the media, women's role, and Westernized social manifestations promoted by the government and ending with the total elimination of the Islamic shari'ah with the foundation of the penal court, with its French and Roman laws. No matter how hard Oman's Islamic movement tries to avoid prominence and to steer away from all forms of confrontation and friction, the models it offers society continue to be viewed by the government as models that are in complete contrast with the (Western) ideological and cultural direction embraced by the state—a direction based on the policy of removing Islam from real life to a large degree or of marginalizing it. Therefore, the day had to come when the government felt that the Islamists' growing presence in society and in state institutions exceeded the permissible limit and could pose a challenge to it at a later stage.

Reports by human rights organizations have noted that Oman's security policy is founded on extreme repression and harassment. It seems that the authorities have inherited their methods of severe harassment and prohibition from the previous administration and that they have not been able to rid themselves completely of these methods, even though the methods of repression have changed from one administration to the other. The Omani security agencies and their British advisers became accustomed to those methods as of the time of the war with the communists in Dhofar. Regrettably, the security agencies have not been able, despite the decade of stability experienced by the country, to change these methods in their dealings with the country's new Islamic tendencies. As everybody knows, the Islamic tendency does not represent the security and military threat that the communist revolution and its forces and followers posed. Moreover, it would never occur to the Islamists to even consider changing the regime or resorting to the use of violence to accomplish the desired reforms. But it seems that the obsession embodied in fear of the Islamic phenomenon and of the fundamentalist bogey has begun to dominate Oman's security agencies and has motivated them to take extremely arbitrary oppressive measures.

There is no doubt that there is another important domestic dimension to this strange security campaign. This dimension has been noted by an observer of the Gulf arena. It is well known that large numbers of former communists who joined the government at various times have assumed many of the country's security and administrative positions. These leftists believe that the Islamic tendency is their only serious rival domestically. Therefore, they try to remove and harass this tendency. It is almost certain that this leftist tendency is the force that carried out the necessary instigation and distortion campaign against the Islamic tendency in one way or another and that pushed the government to adopt those unexpected arbitrary steps.

After Confrontation

The confrontation, fabricated hastily by the Omani Government against the country's reform-minded Islamic movement, was not a successful choice or a step reflecting the wisdom that has characterized the sultan's past policies of opening up to and absorbing all of the country's political and tribal forces and tendencies. These arrests have given Islamists the chance to emerge as a future alternative tendency. The topic of conversation among ordinary Omanis on the morrow of the campaign launched by the security agencies centered on the probity and good reputation of the detainees, on their evident services, and their mastery of their official, social, and charitable jobs. Their arrest, according to a Gulf Islamic figure, has made them candidates to lead Oman in the future.

Western thinkers and decisionmakers believe that the government's growing role in the Gulf people's life in the past 20 years has given rise to new demands for political participation and to the aspiration to subjugate governments to control and legislative authorities formed of the people's elected representatives. This growing role has also given rise to the demand for constitutional guarantees for party life, for respect for human dignity, and for prohibiting bureaucracy from violating the citizen's public liberties. International tendencies inclined toward democracy in Latin America and East Europe had an impact on the rising tone of the rhetoric for political demands in the Middle East region. This rising rhetoric has inspired in turn some Gulf political activists to openly express political and reform demands whose mere contemplation had been prohibited previously.

These Western thinkers believe that deteriorating economic and political conditions in numerous Arab countries, including the Gulf countries, of course, are likely to reinforce the Islamic tendency with more reform-minded strength. This is because the pressures for change will help enhance the Islamic scene's acceptance of Islamic groups in many Arab countries. Moreover, Islam's role in the domestic policies of Islamic states will grow. Islamic policies will, in turn, work to revolutionize the old systems and the ancient political structures that are founded on the ruling minority's control and on its monopolization of power. Moreover, proliferation of the democratic transformation process will act at the same time to intensify instability if the Islamic world is ignored or isolated. Islam alone will be the strongest element of stability. Because political Islam poses a threat to the existing regimes and their current conditions, a number of Islamic states have begun to display increased hostility toward the Islamic movements. They have also begun to show their determination to suppress and uproot the various tendencies of these movements. These experts [presumably meaning Western thinkers] believe that the growing Islamic movement reflects the presence of deep political, economic, and social problems in the countries where the movement exists. The Islamic movements, which are confronted with the conditions of oppression and arrest, may be compelled to resort to underground activity and to engage in violence and retaliation. They may also be viewed by a large sector of the Muslim public as the only answer to the Islamic societies' demands. The movements will also continue to be accepted and to receive a positive response in their capacity as the true opponent of the failed regimes. Their slogan—"Islam is the solution"—will continue to be the strongest slogan in the Islamic opposition's political rhetoric.

The endeavors to prevent political Islam from playing any role in the political process will entrench the manifestations of radicalism and will increase the cases of polarization and of internecine fighting. In contrast, absorption of political Islam's tendencies within the political systems is likely to make these tendencies more flexible and pragmatic. Such absorption will also encourage these tendencies to keep up with the spirit of the age and to deal with the given facts and the challenges imposed by this spirit.

The manner with which the Gulf governments respond to these popular demands will determine the shape and legacy of "monarchy" in the Gulf in the coming decade or the decade that follows it.

This analysis of the opinions of Western thinkers and decisionmakers who are concerned with reading and following developments of the Islamic phenomenon motivates us to ask:

Is there an alternative, or alternatives, to the tense current conditions in Oman? The answer to this question must be positive. However, the presence of these alternatives does not necessarily mean that they are practical or possible now or tomorrow. There is a number of circumstances and developments that come together slowly at times and rapidly at others to make these alternatives either possible or unlikely at any given time. There may be a lot of talk and speculation about these alternatives. However, the fact that persists is that violence is accompanied by counterviolence; that people may remain submissive, but only for a while; and that legitimacy will continue to belong to the peoples' demands. The Sultanate of Oman is experiencing currently circumstances that have already been experienced by other countries. However, it seems the Omani Government has not learned from the experiences of others. The Islamic tendency cannot be defeated under any circumstances. The Arab states' oppression of this tendency for more than 30 years has only made it stronger and more widespread. The rational policies of absorbing the tendency and of dealing with it have proven their feasibility in Jordan, Pakistan, Malaysia, Kuwait, and Lebanon.

The confrontation and escalation policies to which the Omani Government has resorted lead to no laudable consequences and reflect no wisdom or equilibrium. Imprisoned Islamists, and detainees from the Islamic tendency generally, will feel oppressed and humiliated; and many of them will develop the conviction that this government is hostile to Islam and that their state is an oppressive state that must be confronted and against which they must instigate. This is the method that Oman's reform-minded Islamic movement has tried to avoid in the past, training its cadres to work calmly through the frameworks and molds permitted by the state systems. Many of Oman's citizens expect the sultan to pardon the detainees next November so that hatred and antipathy will not escalate and conflict will not be revived in their communities. Next November will be a juncture that will really reflect which logic the government will follow: the logic of wisdom or the logic of oppression.

If the government's domestic policies of oppression persist, the government will undoubtedly appear as if it has responded to the secularist left's instigation that it strike the Islamists. Moreover, the escalation of affairs with the continued imprisonment, detention, and harassment of Islamists will give every Islamist in the Gulf and Arab region the impression that the Omani Government is moving in full accordance with the Western tendencies that advocate, on Israel's urging, that Islamism, whether fundamentalist or reform-minded, be considered the West's common enemy. Consequently, this suppression campaign is interpreted as a campaign that moves in the direction of fighting the Islamic tide in accordance with the Western agenda. This agenda was noted in a reference that U.S. Vice President Al Gore made to Sultan Qabus during his visit to the sultanate last March, when he said, "His Exalted Majesty Sultan Qabus has stood with us firmly in fighting the terrorism and radicalism that pose a threat to peace and stability in the entire world. His majesty has made clear his determination not to permit radicalism operating under any cover to threaten political stability." Al Gore considered what the sultan had done against the Islamists "a true act of leadership."

Islamists in the Gulf continue to wager that the sultan's wisdom and obviation are still the strongest to date. But who knows? The times are pregnant with changes and developments.

Saudi Arabia

Secularist Group Said To Have U.S., Royal Backing

MM1907150395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Jul 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Saudi Secular Movement To Confront Islamists' Activities in Kingdom"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A nine-page memorandum signed by a new group calling itself the "Technocrat Group" has been distributed in Jeddah and other Saudi cities in a bid to reply to the oppositionist fundamentalist Islamic organizations that have been dominating the Saudi scene by their statements and leaflets over the past two years.

Saudi sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the memorandum, which the government is believed to have something to do with, says that it was the secularists, not the fundamentalists, who built the country in the days of [Kings] 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Faysal. The memorandum said that King 'Abd-al-'Aziz did not build the country with men like Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shaykh, but with men like Fu'ad Hamzah, a Durzi; Yusuf Yasin, an Ansarie [a sect in Syria]; and Hafiz Wahbah. And King Faysal appointed Rashad Fir'awn as his adviser.

The memorandum criticized the fundamentalists, saying that their main concern is to reach power.

Some observers believe that the memorandum was distributed in response to U.S. instructions that the voices of the secularists and liberals should be unleashed to offset the Islamists, and that a senior prince in the state, believed to be Prince Salman, is behind this orientation. [passage omitted]

Reform Campaigner Freed; Religious Leader Arrested

NC1907123495 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, July 19 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has freed a Moslem cleric it had arrested for campaigning for political reform, but has arrested another religious leader, an exiled Islamic opposition group said Wednesday [19 July].

Shaykh Hammud al-'Aqlah was freed on Monday following a "worldwide protest campaign," the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said in a statement received in Cyprus.

But the London-based group which is opposed to the Saudi royal family reported the arrest of Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Sa'id al-Ghamdi, a professor of Islamic theology in a University of Medicine in eastern Saudi Arabia.

The group said Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Sa'id had been suspended from his university post before being imprisoned. It gave no reason for the arrest.

The CDLR also said Saudi authorities were "exerting physical and psychological pressure on prisoners to make them stop appealing their verdicts."

In March the group reported the arrests of several theology professors, including Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Sa'id who taught in the holy city of Mecca, as well as Bishr al-Bishr and Sa'id Bin-Za'ir who both taught in Riyadh.

Other arrests were announced in January.

Banned in Saudi Arabia shortly after it was founded in 1993, the CDDL [as received] includes professors and religious leaders who accuse King Fahd of being "corrupt" and who criticize his "undemocratic" methods.

The group pushes for improving human rights and peaceful reform in Saudi Arabia. It says any government based on inheritance cannot be Islamic. It supports women's equality but advocates strict enforcement of Islamic law.

Grand Mufti Urges Muslims To Give Bosnians Arms, Money

LD2007095395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0625 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Jul — His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, grand mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and head of the senior ulema, research, and ifta'a administration, has addressed a call to all Muslims. Here is the text of his call: [passage omitted] O Muslims, assist your brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina with all the weapons and money you can give, and pray to God that He will accept your prayers and help your brothers. The enemies are ganging up on them; they have been let down and their enemies have been helped. God Almighty has made it the duty of Muslims to cooperate in the performance of good deeds, to adhere to God's path, and pray to Him to help them triumph over their enemy and bring about a good result. [passage omitted]

I pray to God, to His good names and supreme attributes, to help our Muslim brothers in Bosnia and other areas triumph over their enemies, be united in support of the truth, firmly put them on the right path and frustrate their enemies. God is capable of everything. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Joint Committee With Saudi Arabia Ends Meetings

LD1807231695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2215 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 18 Jul (SPA) — The members of the Saudi delegation to the Saudi-Yemeni joint Committee for Renewing Demarcation Signs, which is led by Engineer Major General Khalaf Bin Ali, left Sanaa this evening at the end of the committee's meetings which lasted several days in Sanaa.

At the end of this round of talks, the following statement was issued:

The Yemeni-Saudi joint Committee for Renewing Demarcation Signs ended its first round of talks held from 12 to 18 July. The talks were held with regard to implementing the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries on 26 February 1995. They aim at drawing up suitable arrangements for the implementation of the committee's work.

The two sides highly praised the recent meeting which took place in Jeddah between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, custodian of the two holy mosques and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting had a good influence on the outcome of the first round of talks of the committee which culminated in an agreement between the two sides on the committee's work and tasks, and on the agenda of its second round of talks, to be held in Riyadh on 9 September 1995.

The Saudi side expressed appreciation for and satisfaction with the efforts exerted by the Yemeni side to prepare a good atmosphere in order to make this round of talks a success.

Opposition Party Center Comes Under Attack

NC1907101895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0935 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 19 Jul (MENA)—Unidentified gunmen opened intensive gunfire on the headquarters of the Union of Popular Forces Party [UPFP] in Sanaa last night. The UPFP is a small opposition party.

A spokesman for the party said here today that unidentified gunmen opened fire and hurled a hand grenade at the party's headquarters but no one was hurt. He said the attack followed the party's congress on 17 July. Congress reelected Ibrahim Ibn-'Ali al-Wazir as the party's secretary general, the spokesman added.

Al-Sayyid 'Abdallah Sa'd, editor in chief of AL-SHURA, the UPFP mouthpiece, said the latest issue of the paper was confiscated. He said the matter is now with the public prosecution.

Al-Sahhaf Gives UN Ultimatum 'To Finish Its Work'

NC1907211895 Paris AFP in English
2058 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 19 (AFP)—Iraq on Wednesday [19 July] gave the UN disarmament commission an ultimatum to finish its work by the end of August and recommend a lifting of economic sanctions or face a withdrawal of cooperation from Baghdad.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf insisted Iraq had complied with its obligations under UN resolutions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and demanded that an oil embargo and other sanctions be lifted by September.

If the UN Special Commission on disarmament (UNSCOM) did not present its report and the embargo was not lifted at the UN Security Council's next review on September 14 "it will collapse by itself," he told AFP.

Al-Sahhaf, speaking after meeting his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa here, said: "The countries that have interests with Iraq will start to deal with us because they will be sure that we have stuck to our commitments.

"Iraq has respected its commitments towards UNSCOM and the United Nations must equally hold to their commitments towards Iraq," he said.

"UNSCOM must present its definitive report to the UN Security Council between now and the end of August to allow the lifting of the oil embargo imposed on Iraq."

Iraq would stop cooperating with UNSCOM if the report was not presented by then, he said. "That would mean it is useless to continue to cooperate with it," he added.

Al-Sahhaf said he had made his country's position clear in New York last week to four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Britain, France, Russia and China.

Arab diplomats in Cairo said al-Sahhaf also informed Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid about the ultimatum while seeking the league's support to have the five-year-old sanctions lifted.

President Saddam Husayn on Monday threatened to stop cooperating with the United Nations unless it lifted the sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He said his country had met all its obligations.

Under UN resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and cooperate with long-term monitoring before sanctions, including an oil embargo, are lifted.

UN inspectors arrived here Monday on a week-long mission to see whether Baghdad was nearer to fulfilling a promise to disclose all aspects of its germ warfare program by the end of July.

UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus said the germ warfare issue was the only main obstacle to the lifting of the sanctions.

Ekeus said Iraq had little choice but to cooperate with the United Nations following a similar warning from Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan in May. The difference now is that al-Sahhaf has set a time limit.

Beijing, Moscow and Paris have backed lifting the embargo once UNSCOM declares Baghdad no longer has prohibited weapons but Washington has taken a harder line, asking also for compliance on non-disarmament resolutions.

These include the return of Kuwaiti prisoners and respect for human rights in Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf said: "There are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. There is the matter of the missing and work is underway with the International Committee of the Red Cross."

On Sunday Saddam freed two Americans, William Barloon and David Daliberti, who had been jailed for four months after wandering into Iraq from Kuwait, but Washington said there had been no deal.

Meanwhile Saddam's son 'Udayy has launched a drive to repair tanks, helicopters, artillery and other military equipment damaged during the Gulf War and the eight-year war with Iran.

Discusses Embargo With League Chief

JN1907152195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1400 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

The foreign minister briefed the Arab League secretary general on the full picture of Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council and Iraq's implementation of all the commitments stipulated in the UN Resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, and all the points related to the lifting of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf stressed that in the light of the fact that Iraq had implemented all its international commitments, it is now time for the UN Security Council to implement its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and lift the unfair embargo imposed on the people of Iraq without delay.

The foreign minister asked the Arab League secretary general to support Iraq's legitimate demands and to help develop an Arab position to support the efforts of Iraq and its people to end the unfair embargo.

They also discussed several current Arab and international issues.

BABIL on Cooperation With Security Council

JN1907114695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0835 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—BABIL has emphasized that any future Iraqi cooperation will be practically linked to the measures that the Security Council will take to return to Iraq some of its rights in light of the large stride it covered in implementing its commitments.

In an article entitled "Security Council Resolutions and Reciprocal commitments," the newspaper said today that it is illogical and unfair according to all standards that Iraq offers all these sacrifices in resources, including civilian ones, and that its people continue to suffer from an unjust siege for five years during which they suffered from lack of food, medicine, and humanitarian necessities without a reciprocal actions by the Security Council through lifting the siege.

The newspaper recalled how the Security Council imposed its unjust resolutions on Iraq, and said that the council imposed its resolutions in very difficult and complicated international and regional circumstances, and that the United States used its hegemony on the council to ensure that the resolutions be the severest and most oppressive ones the council has adopted since its establishment.

The newspaper emphasized: In light of the circumstances of the siege and the aggression and destruction experienced by Iraq at that time, Iraq expressed readiness to implement these resolutions in spite of the clear injustice and aggression. It said Iraq has covered wide strides in its cooperation and the Special Commission's reports recognized the achievments that had been made. In face of this situation, the Security Council's responsibility is to respond and to make practical steps to lift the siege on Iraq.

The newspaper spoke about the aggressive positions of the U.S. Administration, and said that this administration continues to adopt an outrageous position and to make aggressive statements and false accusations. The newspaper says these accusations are based on fabricated incidents that are easy to expose as attempts to justify the continuation of the siege in spite of all the facts and in defiance of the balanced view announced by a number of Security Council permanent member states and the other members on the need for taking the Iraqi response into consideration and the need for implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 on lifting the oil embargo as a first step toward comprehensive lifting of siege.

The newspaper concludes that the aggressive U.S. position emphasizes that the United States means only Iraq when speaking about commitments and ignores that the council too should implement reciprocal commitments as the text of the U.S.-drafted resolutions stipulates.

Relations With UN, Mutual Obligations Discussed

95LH0205A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
30 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council existed before the 2 August 1990 events and the subsequent brutal aggression against Iraq. It goes back to the beginning of the fifties when the United Nations and its agencies were established. Iraq was one of the founders of the international organization. It represented Asia in the UN Security Council twice. The first time was from 1957 to 1958 and the second from 1974 to 1975. Iraq then dealt with the Council directly. During the Iranian-Iraqi war, it responded to all the international appeals and mediations and the resolutions passed by the Council. Iraq cooperated positively to end this war and solve the problems between the two countries by peaceful means. Contrary to Iran, Iraq accepted Resolution 598 immediately.

The past four years witnessed intensive contacts and continuous cooperation with the UN Security Council. In an unprecedented manner in the history of the United Nations, the Security Council passed 21 resolutions concerning Iraq. The first was Resolution 660 on 2 August 1990 and the last was Resolution 986 on 14 April 1995. Iraqi delegations meet with members of the Security Council every two months, according to Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687, to review the sanctions against Iraq. Occasionally, this takes place monthly and for several days. Iraq has cooperated positively in implementing its obligations under the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687 and the related resolutions, despite their harshness, injustice, and hostility. Iraq concentrated on closing the file of weapons, which the referent resolution banned Iraq from possessing or producing. It also concentrated on implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provided for lifting the economic sanctions against Iraq when this file had been closed. It worked patiently and responsibly with the Special Commission led by

Ekeus and the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] commission led by Hans Blix to close this file. It destroyed the weapons and installations covered under the Council's resolution. The long-term inspection system began operating more than one year ago after Iraq had accepted resolution 715.

This is regarding the weapons' file. As for the other commitments imposed on Iraq, they have also been implemented. Iraq has announced its recognition of Kuwait and the borders imposed by Resolution 833. Property was returned and all the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and all the foreigners in Iraq were returned when military operations ceased. Iraq returned a total of 6,528 Kuwaitis and foreigners. As for the missing (who allegedly number 609), Iraq is continuing to work seriously with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the tripartite committee formed for this purpose to determine their fate. This is contrary to Kuwait, which is using the issue as a political card to mislead world public opinion. Kuwait, for example, canceled a meeting of the tripartite committee, which was scheduled to be held on the border during the first half of this month. This shows its lack of seriousness in dealing with this issue. According to the provisions of the Council's resolutions, Iraq has fulfilled its obligations. After more than four years of dealing and cooperating directly with the Security Council, the question being asked today is: What has the Security Council offered Iraq in return for its cooperation and implementation of its obligations, especially as the resolutions have also placed on the Council parallel obligations toward the Iraqi people?

According to the Security Council resolutions, political, economic, cultural, and scientific sanctions have been imposed on Iraq. They were accompanied by a psychological warfare and misleading propaganda and information campaigns. According to logic and the desired objective, these sanctions (or the comprehensive blockade) should have ended with the end of their cause, as matters have returned to what they were before 2 August 1990, but the comprehensive blockade, with pressure and instigation by some influential forces in the Security Council, has continued, although Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

Because of the direct effect of the economic sanctions on our struggling people, Iraq focused its efforts first on closing the file of the banned weapons, according to section C of Resolution 687, which linked the closing of this file with the implementation of Paragraph 22 of this resolution. This paragraph calls for lifting the economic sanctions against Iraq while continuing the efforts to close the other files. Therefore, Iraq has given priority to this file and has worked relentlessly and cooperated seriously with the Special Commission and the IAEA. It has fulfilled its essential obligations, particularly its commitments under Paragraphs 7,8,9,10,11,12, and 13 of Resolution 687 regarding the banned activity and weapons. Because of Iraq's cooperation, the Special Commission and the IAEA have admitted that they have accomplished their tasks by destroying, removing, or rendering harmless all the materials covered by these paragraphs, including the relevant installations, sites, and materials. Ekeus and Blix confirmed this in their reports to the Security Council on 10 October 1994. Blix again confirmed this one week later in his speech to the UN General Assembly. After accomplishing this mission, the Security Council was supposed to fulfill part of its obligations under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for lifting the economic sanctions. The admission and testimony of Ekeus and Blix that Iraq has fulfilled its essential obligations are sufficient for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Based on the spirit and text of its resolutions, the Security Council should have used this resolution to frustrate the attempts of those who use the Council and its resolutions for achieving their political objectives in Iraq. It would have spared Ekeus and the other officials handling the file of section C on the banned weapons from responding to pressures and submitting to the wishes of this international party or the other. Malicious international forces and petro-dollar enticements, naturally, would have an effect in one way or another. This explains the deliberate delay and the creation of pretexts to maintain the unjust blockade. It also definitely explains why Ekeus retracted his statement that Iraq has fulfilled its essential obligations and why the Special Commission has, in strange and suspicious ways, reopened this file, although it had been closed for a long time. The same has happened regarding the biological (bacteria) weapons' file, which was closed in 1992 and its closure was confirmed in 1993. The Special Commission has again reopened the chemical weapons and missiles' files, although they had been closed. It is likely that the IAEA's committee would be prompted at a certain time to raise some doubts about a certain part in the nuclear file, whose closure it announced in 1994.

The Security Council should be held responsible for this. It has allowed influential malicious forces to interfere in its affairs and control it. It was no coincident that the tasks of the Special Commission have been described in such an absolute and eloquent fashion and the fate of 20 million Iraqis has been linked with this commission and its inspection teams. These forces have used and are still using them to prolong the blockade by creating excuses and problems. There are many examples, and among the American heroes in this saga were Karen Jansen and David Kelly [as transliterated]. Their scandalous actions are still clear in our memories. Because of Iraq's political and diplomatic activity, its permanent presence, its delegations' contacts with the members of the Security Council, and its participation in some of the Council's sessions on Iraq, the Security Council has been alerted to the mission entrusted to the Special Commission and the need to follow up its work and determine its progress by asking it to submit detailed reports about its activity and the obligations fulfilled by Iraq. In the March 1993 session, the Iraqi delegation succeeded in convincing the Security Council members of the need to ask Ekeus to submit a monthly report to the Council about the Special Commission's task. After that, the commission's work became clear to the Council members. Before, the commission carried out its work without supervision or even explanation. After the picture became clear, some Council members began asking the Special Commission to speed up the completion of its task. Ekeus made a significant admission before the Security Council members when he presented his semiannual report in March 1995. When some Council members asked him about Iraq's present armament situation and its danger to security and peace in the area, he replied: Today's Iraq does not constitute a danger to security and peace. This is a clear admission that Iraq has implemented its essential obligations regarding the banned weapons and activities and that the Special Commission has accomplished its basic mission. This obligates the Security Council to honor Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and lift the economic sanctions against Iraq, as a first step toward lifting the other sanctions.

This has not happened. The Council has used the excuse that it is waiting for Ekeus' final report, but some of those who do not want it submitted might find ridiculous excuses to delay it. This is what is happening now. The Special Commission has reopened the files of Iraq's previous armament programs just because of some secondary questions that did not affect the basic achieved goal. Iraq has fulfilled its obligations. The Security Council has parallel obligations toward the Iraqi people under the same resolutions. The Council should fulfill these obligations and lift the economic sanctions against Iraq, according to Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, as a first step toward lifting the unjust blockade. This is the only solution to the hardships facing the Iraqi people. Any delay would aggravate the current situation. This is definitely a great historic responsibility. The benevolent members of the Security Council—who are the majority—should fulfill their responsibility and adopt the appropriate decision that would do justice to the Iraqi people, who have cooperated with the Council and implemented their obligations. The Council members must not dodge this responsibility on the pretext of awaiting Ekeus' report. The Special Commission has technically accomplished its task. Ekeus, who is visiting Baghdad on 29 May, should be honest and admit the truth, because he is the kingpin in the whole affair. The suspicion being raised now about this or that file is secondary and does not affect the essence of his mission, which he has actually accomplished.

The result of Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council during the past few years makes it incumbent upon the Council to adopt a fair decision, implement the provisions of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and fulfill its parallel obligations toward Iraq and its people. The existing situation in Iraq, under the continuing oppressive blockade, does not permit further procrastination and deliberate delays.

Commentary on Politics of UN Sanctions

95LH0206A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 May 95 p 6

[Commentary by 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abdallah]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the past four years and nine months, 20 million Iraqi people have been languishing under a blockade, which the United States imposed on Iraq on 6 August 1990 through UN Security Council Resolution 661. The United States did this in preparation for the war it launched against Iraq from 17 January 1991 until 28 February 1991. The UN Security Council's Resolution 687 in 1991 perpetuated this blockade.

The strange thing about this blockade is that those who imposed it have not been trying to hide its illegitimacy. While the UN Charter stipulates that the rights of civilians in blockaded states, particularly those pertaining to food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs, must not be affected, the blockaders of Iraq have boasted about preventing these necessities from reaching its people.

The reasons for imposing the blockade on 6 August 1990 ended on 28 February 1991. Yet, the ferocity of the blockade has increased under Resolution 687 by virtue of this resolution's expanded scope and ambiguity.

Iraq has seriously tried to implement its obligations under Resolution 687, but the commission formed under the UN Security Council's Resolution 661, called by the press the Sanctions Commission, has dealt with Iraq with frivolity that is inappropriate in international relations. It used to approve the exportation of a limited quantity of food to Iraq (wheat, rice, etc.) one year and withdraw its approval the next year.

Furthermore, the blockade was surrounded by a broad network of diplomatic deception woven by its imposers to create an atmosphere of ambiguity and deception. Yet, this diplomatic deception, despite its intensity or perhaps because of it, has clearly exposed the U.S. objective in blockading Iraq. These objectives can be summed up as follows:

1. taming Iraq and forcing it to change direction or try to get out of the maze of Resolution 687 by seeking U.S. hegemony

2. using this method of dealing with Iraq as an example of U.S. power in the Arab arena.

3. providing an opportunity—through the blockade of Iraq—to the Arab intermediary class to achieve its interests and facilitate the U.S. Administration's task in promoting the capitulation settlement projects, which it is now trying to establish by force in the Arab world, and concentrating its hegemony in the area.

In view of this, Iraq has no alternative but to tackle its own difficult situation, armed with rationalism and the spirit of the age. It should gradually move toward its objective in steady steps that allow progress but no retreat. This process should be based on the following four principles:

1. Realism. This means assessing the situation objectively by comparing the supporting factors and their strength with the opposing factors and their strength. It also means making a realistic assessment of our intrinsic capacity, calculating the element of time in all this, and balancing between the little that can be achieve today with the great deal that could be achieve tomorrow. It should do this while taking into consideration the existing urgent needs, which demand quick and timely responses. Realism means accepting reality, working within its framework to change and develop it, and not submitting or surrendering to it.

2. Flexibility. This means adapting the form, method, or language according to the reality's pressure, its possibilities, and limitations to attain the desired goal. Flexibility means inventing alternative forms of action that can fulfill the purpose without causing obstacles.

3. Irreversibility. This is the principle that establishes the minimum demands. The march must not turn back or retreat, but it can face obstacles and stop for a certain time.

4. Escalation. This means moving from one stage to the next, whose minimum was the maximum in the previous stage.

Based on these principles, Iraq should have reaffirmed its adherence to its pan-Arab policy, tried to explain its cause to the members of its nation, and retained the role of the Arab League even as a symbol in these circumstances. Iraq should have diversified the methods of presenting its demands and tried to build bridges with the others. Such bridges could be as different as the parties. Iraq should have devoted much attention to direct personal contacts, particularly the informal ones, in negotiations with governments or with non-government organizations. Iraq should have allowed each of them to get involved in this arena through various activity. It should have regulated these personal contacts to make them grow and bear fruit.

In its march, Iraq is fully aware that its position goes beyond the shortsightedness of oppression and its capacity is greater than the terrorism of foolish force. What is now being built by force in the Arab world can disintegrate and explode, whether Iraq remained under the blockade or not. The U.S. use of force reflects the critical situation through which it is passing, but force cannot solve its economic or social crisis.

Article Views Families Coping With Sanctions

95LH0172A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 24 May 95 pp 16-17

[Article by Dhikra al-Samarra'i]

[FBIS Translated Text] How are large families coping with the criminal sanctions? How are they enduring the difficulties of the sanctions? Are small families now preferable to large ones?

These are the questions that led us to take a tour through several areas of Baghdad to study the conditions of large families and compare them with those of small families.

We found that the large families and families who had moved together to live in one house are more numerous in populous neighborhoods, despite the fact that the houses are small. What caught our attention was that whenever the pressure of the embargo increased so did the crowding of families and relatives into one home. This is one of the phenomena of Iraqi steadfastness in the face of the unjust embargo.

In Madinah al-Hurriyyah [Freedom City], Baghdad al-Jadidah [New Baghdad], a-Bayya', and al-Fadl, we were reminded that what has caused many children from large families to live in one home is the fact that this has allowed one to help the other make a living and manage daily life. One may cite other reasons:

- Coping with higher rents. Those who do not own a house must look for shelter, which is best found among the closest relatives: the home of the father's family or the uncle's or someone else.

%The other reason is the feeling of security in a large family in these crucial times, which have led some people to commit robbery, plunder, and fraud.

%Raising and watching children, as in a large family, there is a grandmother or other person with free time. For various reasons, that person can run the house and provide the children with care, while small families, consisting of a husband and a wife, are compelled to work outside the home for a crust of bread, leaving their children to fate.

One of the things I noticed in my visits to some large families was that the families in which there were many men were able to earn a living because all of them had jobs, or, in some cases, more than one job. Yet there are many women and girls who were not working before the sanctions, now taking part in earning a living by working in any field, even if only in the popular marketplaces.

Large families with several workers were noteworthy in that they received support from the government: 2,000 dinars per month to make up for a reduced share of food allotment. In one case I found a family that was receiving 14,000 dinars per month on top of their salaries, allocations, and incentives, because they have seven working people.

The surprising thing is that I found that the poor, destitute families suffering most from the embargo were the most patient and complained less than the well-off. I found this to be the case quite often:

In the city of al-Hurriyah, I saw the family of Mr. Matar 'Abd-al-Hamid, the head of a household made up of seven little ones ranging in age from 7 to 15, having a lunch only of bread, water, and salt. The young ones dipped the bread in the water and then in salt and then put it into their hungry mouths with the utmost eagerness. Even so, they quarreled and laughed when they finished off the water and salt, each accusing the other of being the ultimate cause in the terrible end. The terrible end of the "food" in that dish—sorry, I mean the water and salt—was the real cause their hunger and voracity?

To tell the truth, I must say that what I saw horrified me. I turned to the mother and unthinkingly said, pointing to the children's dish and their food, "Why are they eating that?"

Then I realized the stupidity of my question, when I saw the look of wonder on the woman's face. I quickly corrected myself, asking how she managed the house with the food allotment and the prices of vegetables.

"We sell the rice and oil and buy flour and sugar instead," she said. "We alternate our lunches: bread and tea or bread and vegetables. When the price of vegetables goes up, then all we have is bread, water, and salt—like this!"

Then the woman told me about her husband's job. He works as a laborer and earns 500 dinars per day. This sum is no longer enough to buy vegetables or to provide for one meal per day. Consequently, this was the way they had to eat.

I left this family feeling intense hatred for Madeleine Albright and her vile speeches. Where is she and her humanitarianism, when I see this poor mother who can scarcely feed her little ones?

After this, I met a person in another street of Madinah al-Hurriyah. He has 15 people in his family, and, as the head of this family said, he is a true fighter. He has three jobs each day to care for his family and meet his 15 children's daily needs.

When I knocked at the door of their house, the children ran to meet me in an unending clamor. One pulled me by the hand while another pushed at me from behind, asking me for 10 dinars so he could buy half a loaf of bread dipped in molasses. Another said, "Lady, take my picture for the magazine!" His mother exclaimed, "Why? Have you been nominated the king of dirtiness?"

I laughed at the innocence and mischief of the little ones and the simplicity of the family and its welcome despite their conditions. After this I went back to the master of the house, Kamil Jabbar, and asked him how they were surviving the embargo.

"What exactly do you want me to talk about? The price of tomatoes and squash and baklava? Thanks to our brothers the peasants, they have become too precious to come into houses like ours. Today, for example, all I could find in the market was two kilos of baklava and twenty loaves of bread, which my wife will prepare for lunch for the 15 imps," meaning his children.

His wife added, "We haven't bought tomatoes in two and a half months."

"What about your allotment of tomatoes?" I asked her.

"We do all we can to make the most of the allotment," she replied, "but even so we usually have to buy sugar, tea, and oil from the commercial market, even though we have cut back on drinking tea; now we just have it at breakfast. Poor Abu-Muhammad tries as much as he can to meet our needs."

"What kind of work do you do, Abu-Muhammad?"

"I'm a guard in the post office at night," he said, "and in the daytime I push around a cart selling the shoes I buy in al-Shurjah. I add a few dinars to their price as my daily profit. I also have a job cleaning up a lawyer's office in the afternoon, between two and three o'clock, for a monthly salary of 1,500 dinars. My wife also works the same hours I do in a medical clinic near the lawyer's office. She works as a cleaner for 500 dinars a month for two hours per day."

After several questions about the children and how they are doing in school, Abu-Muhammad answered, trying to remember their names and which grades they were in, so he cut it short by explaining that his oldest daughter was in the second year of middle school but would leave her studies to get married. The three boys had left school to sell newspapers and cigarettes at intersections and traffic signals nearby. Thus they all were, as he said, "Fine, thank God."

After that, I went to another locale in the city of Baghdad, this time to another poor neighborhood, Baghdad al-Jadidah. There, a colleague of mine who lives there led me to a family whose mother, she said, meaning the lady of the house, was a genius, looking after three families at once. When we arrived at the house of this genius, we found her getting rid of the last three couches in her house; she had already sold the refrigerator, the television, the only carpet in the house, and other things, which, as she told me herself, had become luxuries compared to the need for food, medicine, and bus fare.

We let Hajah Fadilah finish her bargaining and paying the pickup truck driver as she got rid of her furniture and then experiencing temporary delight as she received the money from the buyer. She turned to us and said:

"What do you want?"

It was as if she had not noticed our presence until she got the money in her hand.

"We're writing an article about large Iraqi families and how they are managing in light of the embargo."

She lifted the edge of her veil and exclaimed, "We're doing fine. Fine, God be thanked. We will resist to our last breath, and we will never let America feed us food tainted with shame."

As soon as Hajah Fadilah had her say, everyone who saw our encounter took her part and supported her, saying:

"Yes, that's right, Hajah, you spoke well!"

Then Hajah Fadilah grasped my arm tightly and took me inside her house to have a quick look at her rooms, which had no furniture, but I did see bright eyes looking at me, as if calling me, is if insisting on speaking, before their lips spoke. So I approached one of them, who seemed to be about 40 years old. "Would you like to speak to us?" I asked. He replied immediately.

"I am the Hajah's oldest son. My name is 'Abbas Karim Kati' and I have three sons. The oldest is at the university and will graduate in two years. I and my family live with my mother and so does my sister, her daughter, and her husband. My brother and his wife do too. We three families are a burden on our mother, sharing her house after we were no longer able to pay our rent, which was always going up. We help the other families get along in terms of food, clothing, medicine, and bus fare." Then he reminded us of our journalistic duty in conveying the suffering of the people.

"Write about the greedy merchants and the way they are always raising their prices even though they know their brother citizens are suffering. People say that we all ought to work together to ease the suffering of all, instead of our exploiting one another. Merchants now raise their prices and the grocers cooperate with them, and private truck drivers use the higher prices to justify raising their rates and the mechanics' rates. So we are all paying the price of each other's mistakes, and increasing our own suffering in the world." Then Mr. 'Abbas told us he was a government employee with 18 years of service. Even so, his salary cannot meet his family's needs, so he is compelled to work at night as a taxi driver, using a car owned by yet another relative.

Then I said to my interlocutor that I knew the three families ate from one pot.

Here the genius—sorry, I mean Hajah Fadilah—intervened, saying that the rigor of her management style was what made her able to run the house.

"I do the cooking instead of the three other ladies in the family. I set three o'clock as the lunch time because it's convenient for everyone. I serve the food myself. She makes sure everyone eats in an orderly fashion. In this way the family has succeeded in working together and providing a good variety of food to its children, especially as everyone has found additional work on top of their day jobs.

Embargo Sicknesses

With this family's insistence on challenging the hard days, which are days of trial for us all, let us show our enemies the extent of our abilities and moral resources in finding ways of prolonging our patience and our ability to exert steadfastness in spite of all those who want us to taste defeat. We will never be defeated as long as we have people such as those I met, and there are many of them in Iraq. Unfortunately, however, I found still other conditions created by the embargo, deviant conditions, which I only mention in this article so that they may be seen and rooted out, to become mere polluted grains of dust which we may be rid of. I found people whose conditions had changed, for whom the injustice of our enemies created a golden age; they have been swept away into worlds only God knows of. I found families who had been enduring hardship even before the embargo, but whose despicable individuals began to traffic and work in everything forbidden by God. They throw dinars at each other instead of stones and butt one another in the newest cars in the country. This is not so long after they were playing with empty tin cans in the street. They left school and some of them went to work stealing cars, currency smuggling, or currency speculation.

Some of the residents of the Baghdad al-Jadidah spoke to us of such cases.

This family was made up of five sons, all of whom left school early and quickly went into the market. One returns home with cartons of imported cigarettes; another brings a new car like the neighborhood had never dreamed of seeing. Yet another is accompanied by a group of men whose Western faces were noticed by the whole neighborhood, who spend the whole evening in the house until the wee hours. In these and other ways the sons of this family have grown rich. They have three cars, four or five houses, and everything they want, and they engage in real estate speculation.

Thus they dominate others by juggling prices, and this is not the only family like this. There are others everywhere, finding ways to get rich in these difficult times. As we have said, they are sick cells which must be eliminated before they get out of control and become imaginary dinosaurs!

In our house, my mother told me of a woman who came to the house recently, whose face and body were totally enveloped in her cloak. She was carrying a pot in her hand and asked if we would give her any food at all for her to feed her grandchildren for supper. My mother was saddened when she recognized the woman by her voice. At that point, the woman burst into tears and told us she was forced to ask this question in disguise because she was unable to provide food and it was hard for her to see her little grandchildren going to bed hungry.

My mother told her, "My dear, this is just a black cloud which will pass."

My mother's words were simple, but they are a dagger aimed at anyone who disparages the steadfastness of the Iraqis or underestimates their honor. For our day of victory is near, with God's help. Soon the storks [a good omen] will again visit us in summer and promise us good things to come, God willing.

UN Resolution 986 Called Beginning of New Colonialism

95LH0184A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 May 95 p 6

[Article by Mustafa Tawfiq al-Mukhtar]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first issue discussed at the inception of what is called the new world order idea was sovereignty. In a lecture Butrus Butrus-Ghali delivered at 'Ayn Shams University at the beginning of the last quarter of 1990, about one year before he was elected secretary general of the United Nations and a few months before the 30-nation aggression against Iraq, he spoke about the international organizations' role and new tasks in the new world order. He also spoke about the need to change nationalism to a concept in which sovereignty assumes a different meaning. He referred to the same thing when he assumed his post at the United Nations.

This new concept of sovereignty means that countries should concede some of what has been accepted as the basis of sovereignty to international bodies. In practice, this means making these concessions to the dominant big powers, particularly the United States, or the forces that want to rule the world through what is called the world government. The United Nations and its agencies and the non-governmental organizations would become the executive tool of this world government. All these policies aim at ending the existence of what is called a homeland.

At the beginning of 1992, the secret Bilderberg [as transliterated] group (which consists of elite figures, among them Kissinger and the Netherlands Prince Bernard) held a meeting in Evian, France. In its March-April 1993 edition, the NEW DAWN, a magazine published in Melbourne, Australia, wrote about this meeting, saying: In explaining its philosophy, the group said: (. . .) It is difficult to reeducate a people who have been raised on nationalism to accept the idea of relinquishing part of their sovereignty to an organization above the national organizations (. . .). This is the tragedy. This is what this group and the forces dominating the United Nations are seeking to achieve. In a speech he delivered in 1993 at the American Association of Newspaper Publishers, Butrus-Ghali spoke about the need to establish a permanent force to intervene in local and bilateral conflicts.

The practical implementation of such policies began with the intervention in Somalia, after the 30-nation aggression against Iraq failed to achieve its basic purpose in this respect. The imperialist press considered the UN aggression against Somalia, under the pretext of providing humanitarian assistance, as the first UN measure in this framework. THE WASHINGTON POST wrote on 4 December 1992 that this aggression constituted the first UN intervention in the internal affairs of a country and the first time UN forces were authorized to use force. Of course, this authorization was not the first. The Security Council granted such authorization to the coalition forces, specifically to the United States, to carry out their aggression against Iraq, according to Resolution 678. However, the imperialist media has not talked about the Iraqi case as part of this policy. This is natural, as the United Nations and the dominant states have always maintained a double standard policy toward Iraq. This became absolutely clear when the United States used its veto against the draft resolution opposing Israel's annexation of Arab land in Jerusalem, which was supported by 14 members of the UN Security Council. We referred to this case not because it is new or different from other U.S. positions, but to remind the people whose memories have been drowned in the festivals of the new world order. We want particularly to remind the Arabs who are competing to get a role in this orchestra to win the acceptance of the United Nations and the United States at the expense of their peoples.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER uncovered the purpose of extending humanitarian aid to Somalia when it reported about the death of Larry Friedman in a mine explosion as he was engaged in the distribution of relief aid. Friedman, 51, worked 27 years for the Central Intelligence Agency in Vietnam, Central America, Africa, and the Middle East. He was among the few Americans who escaped when their aircraft crashed in Iran as they were trying to rescue the U.S. hostages. This revelation shows the type of people who work in the field of aid and relief under the UN flag.

It is possible to refer to many facts and events. The experiences of Somalia, Yugoslavia, and Rwanda are full of them. On 30 September 1994, the British ECONOMIST revealed the special deals and privileges secured by the UN forces, including Egyptian officers. On 26 April 1995, THE FINANCIAL TIMES dealt with the new authorities given to the IMF, describing them as new fangs.

What interests us in all this, in relation to Resolution 986, is to examine the role the United Nations is being asked to play together with its agencies that deal with childhood, culture, or any other matter used as colonialist cover. What also interests us is to examine the role of suspect or deceived non-governmental organizations and to uncover the facts. These facts have become known to the patriots—and I repeat, the patriots—who are more interested in their countries than in their pockets.

At the beginning of the eighties, the United Nations began what was called a plan to review the United Nations' structure and functions. No serious efforts have been made in this regard for many reasons, including the lack of desire among what (Shuffenman) called the high-ranking officials, dressed in nice suites, and carrying briefcases full of big reports that say nothing about making changes in an international situation characterized by a balance of powers and the existence of a strong Third World force. Diplomats working at the United Nations and others who were hoping to work at the United Nations, after they finish their service in their countries, allowed the issue to die. Therefore, making the changes then was difficult.

It seems that the chance has now come, after the obstacles have been removed. Their chance was Resolution 986. One should be careful here not to fall in the traps of deception and complaint that the relief organizations in Iraq are not receiving sufficient money. They complain because after Iraq rejected Resolution 986, they decreased the individual's per diem allowance from $300 to $150 daily. This reduced per diem allowance can buy approximately 22 food rations a month.

Therefore, Resolution 986 provided the executive measures for the change. It eliminated the need for a debate on the necessary structural and institutional changes and the need for negotiations among the states. This resolution has made aid dependent on a political decision. Thus, the organizations engaged in assistance—whether UN agencies or non-governmental organizations—have been turned into organizations with political functions, tied to UN Security Council resolutions, which are political.

The resolution grants the United Nations and its agencies the right to intervene. This is tantamount to a mandate. It also grants the UN secretary general the status of a high commissioner. In other words, the UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the UNESCO, the UN Development Program, and other agencies have been transformed into political bodies rather than professional or humanitarian bodies. Non-governmental national organizations have also been given an associate role in this mechanism, particularly in the Third World.

This is dangerous because these organizations, particularly in the Third World, are closer to the positions of political influence in a country. Therefore, the conclusion of agreements with them, under the cover of cooperation, can achieve the desired result at the expense of the country and its people. In signing a cooperation agreement with an economic organization or a women's organization in Sarajevo, for example, the UN specialized agencies implement the will of foreign forces because they are dependent on their support.

Following their visit to Iraq, Hugh Levingston and Kayodo Ola Femehan published a report in the British magazine LIVING MARXISM [last two words in English] on 24 February 1995 entitled "The United Nations, the New Dictatorship in Iraq." The title of this report reveals the real role of the United Nations.

There is a common denominator between what has been said about the resolution and what is taking place as part of the blockade. The common denominator is that the war is continuing. This was the opinion of the strategist Marie de Lacourse in a commentary on Monte Carlo Radio following the issuance of Resolution 986. He said: The resolution is part of the war against the Iraqi people. The resolution, which the United States initiated, is proof that the Gulf war has not ended yet.

Madeleine Albright [U.S. ambassador to the United Nations] has supported the opinion that the Gulf war, the mother of all battles, is continuing. Following her tour of the member states of the UN Security Council, before Resolution 986 was passed, she told journalists that "the sanctions"—what is meant here is the blockade—"is the most important and effective weapon that remains in our weapons' arsenal." We must here draw attention to the term "weapons' arsenal." The war has not ended. This makes us recall what British journalist Sarah Helms wrote in the INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY on 8 May 1995. She said: "The policy of the West on the issue of continuing the blockade leads us to believe that the more the Iraqi people suffer from the blockade the better for us." The writer recalled what THE WASHINGTON POST wrote about the 30-nation aggression against Iraq and said that "the military objective of this war is to weaken the Iraqi people's morale."

So, the blockade is a tool used by the United Nations to deprive countries of their sovereignty and give sovereignty a different meaning consistent with the mandate concept, which was familiar to the Third World at the beginning of this century. The blockade and sanctions are among the tools the United Nations is using to impose this new concept of diminished sovereignty, in line with what has been agreed upon and what the Australian NEW DAWN magazine referred to when it maintained that the deadly blockade on former Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya was neocolonialism, whose tool is the United Nations.

Resolution 986, in its letter and spirit, is just an authorization to the United Nations and its agencies. It is also an authorization to the non-governmental organizations, said to be interested in assistance, to enable them to manage the revenues from national resources without giving the state that owns these resources any say in it.

According to the resolution, the United Nations company, under the management of the secretary general, will play the role of the agent in marketing Iraq's oil, the commodity for which there is high demand. The United Nations would be playing the same role played in the past by the British Petroleum Company. In doing so, it would cancel all the gains achieved by the Iraqi people, including the nationalization of oil and independence, which the Iraqi people achieved after a long struggle. Therefore, according to Resolution 986, the United Nations would become the commercial broker that would replace the multinational companies. In other words, the United Nations would become the eighth oil company after what is called the seven sisters.

What does all this mean? It simply means that Resolution 986 is a document that places Iraq under the mandate of the UN high commissioner, Butrus-Ghali, grandson of the oppressor of the peasants in Upper Egypt. I can only say: May God bless your soul O Abd-al-Nasir [former Egyptian president]. You bear the sin of Butrus-Ghali because you did not listen to the opinion of the National Movement and you gave him a chance like Brezhnev gave to Gorbachev.

There has been an attempt to misinterpret the terms contained in Resolution 986. Although the term mandate [last word in English] does not appear in the resolution, its meaning is clear in the mechanisms of the resolution. If we go back to the literature of the United Nations until the eighties, including the UN Charter, the Arabic translation for this term is mandate. After the eighties, the United Nations began publishing translation guidelines and glossaries in which we found a change in the translation of the term mandate [last word in English]. In the UN translator's guide (a limited distribution document under UNIDO/SC/RES.B/1) [last abbreviation in English] issued on 23 November 1984, the term was translated as jurisdiction, authorization, or authorizes. The main purpose of Resolution 986 is to authorize the United Nations and its secretary general to undertake the tasks of marketing Iraqi oil, make Iraqi purchases, and distribute among the Iraqi people the food and medicine, which the United Nations will buy if any money is left over from the oil sale money. Therefore, the resolution is a mandate, without the term appearing in it. The Iraqis knew this kind of play on words in 1920 when the conflict intensified between Iraqi nationals and British High Commissioner Percy Cox. One of the differences was about the meaning of the term mandate. The British maintained then that the Iraqis misunderstood the meaning of the term as it appeared in text submitted by U.S. President Wilson and adopted by the League of Nations. They interpreted it as "the contract according to which service is rendered." The Iraqis interpreted it as "the request of sovereignty from another state and that the commissioner means the person who exercises the sovereignty." This is what Miss Bell explained in her letters and U.S. historian Henry Foster wrote about in his book *The Birth of Modern Iraq*, which Salim Taha al-Takriti translated into Arabic.

The conclusion is that Resolution 986, according to all criteria, is a mandate document designed to hold in pledge Iraq's sovereignty and run its affairs through a high commissioner sitting at the UN headquarters and assistants spread all over the country. They are trying to do this after the bitter struggle the Iraqi people have waged to get rid of all forms of colonialist domination since the twenties.

They want Iraq to give up its sovereignty at a time when the Iraqi people have taken control of their fate through a leader to whom loyalty has become a prominent feature of complete independence.

The Iraqis gave their response when they rejected the new mandate resolution. Sovereignty and honor cannot be separated.

*Paper: Sanctions Cause Fraud in Engine Oil Quality

95LA0299A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 7 May 95 pp 16-17

[FBIS Translated Text] Fraud does not end. Parasites have been seeking illegal profit, working against the law, and committing offenses in broad daylight, and the one who suffers is the citizen.

This time fraud has been committed in engine oil. Big cans and larger cylinders lie on the streets or near washing and greasing garages. Some others lie along the sidewalks and others in oil change garages, which have become full of unlabeled oil cans of various sizes.

Complaints have increased against engine oil. How can one cheat in this substance? How is it that adulterated oil can still be found in large quantities? What measures have been taken to curtail this phenomenon? We wanted to find the answers to these questions, in view of the importance of this indispensable substance.

First, we must point out that engine oil is rationed; that is, it is distributed to the citizens through special coupons. Engine oil is rationed because of the unjust blockade and because the government stopped importing ingredients that go into its production. The state was forced to ration engine oil to meet the needs of all the citizens. Private car owners receive five liters the first month and 10 liters the following month; that is an average of 7.5 liters. Taxi owners receive 20 liters every two months. The price of a sealed gallon of oil is 50 dinars and the price of a gallon of oil sold by the liter is 25 dinars. The need for oil change, as we know, depends on the car's age and speed. The price of a gallon of oil in the private sector is 500 dinars. If a car requires an oil change twice a month, the owner must pay 1,000 dinars, which is very high compared to state prices.

A look at the reasons for this phenomenon makes us wonder how does it take place and how is it controlled? Some people mix engine oil with other ingredients without considering its suitability for cars, because they are ignorant or just want to make a big profit. They have no remorse about what they are doing. We asked some salespeople about the oil they are selling. They said that they did not know where it came from, have not heard about adulteration in engine oil, and had no idea about the required engine oil specifications. Transactions are conducted quickly in dark alleys, in gasoline filling stations, or in an isolated place. The tempting price and the profit margin are the criteria for such transactions. The affected citizen (his car) is powerless. Some merchants have devised clever ways to mix oils, which cannot be discovered or distinguished from others. What we have discovered is that the citizen is forced to buy from these sellers if his oil ration is not enough to meet his needs. When I asked one of them why has he continued to buy this oil when he knew or at least suspected that it is adulterated? He replied: What else can we use for the car?

People on the sidewalks told us that if we wanted to know the sources of this substance, we must ask the shop owners. They also said: Ask the owners of the gasoline filling stations or the car washing and greasing garages. They can close the door to adulterated engine oil.

Both big and small, the permanent and the mobile salespeople with their carts and oil stained garments candidly say: The people who tamper with this substance are those who have the knowledge to mix it with other substances in a way that cannot be discovered. You will find that the adulteration percentage is very high, exceeding 90 percent. Filling cars with adulterated oil has become a common scene.

What do you mean by 90 percent? I asked the storekeepers. They hastened to explain that gasoline or kerosene is mixed with engine oil in the following proportions: one engine oil tanker to two gasoline tankers and one kerosene tanker makes four engine oil tankers. You can then figure out the percentage of the mixture and the profit. This is one sample of adulteration, as engine oil could be mixed with substances other than gasoline and kerosene.

What are these substances? I asked.

They said: Oil wastes, white oil, dyes, and other things. These can produce enormous profits.

How? I asked.

They replied: An engine oil tanker, for example, is worth 5,000 dinars. After it is adulterated and filled in various sized cans, they can sell it for more than 1 million dinars. If a tanker can normally fill 5,000 cans, after it is adulterated, it can fill 500,000 cans.

I asked a salesman: Where do you get this substance? He replied: It is not your business.

A salesman in another shop said: Car owners change the oil in their cars and do not ask where the oil comes from. What matters is that it is available. I asked another: Is it true that this oil is adulterated, as car owners told me?

He replied: Why do they buy it if it damages their cars?

Oil adulteration takes place in secret and in various ways. Still, they sell it openly, and the authorities are unable to uncover the adulteration, a citizen said. His colleague added: We use the available substance because we have to.

More than one person has confirmed that adulterated oil has damaged the engines of their cars.

I asked some of them: Where does the mixing of such large quantities take place? They said that some plants operate under various store signs and cannot be discovered. They operate night and day to mix large quantities of this substance and market it. Qualified people operate these plants, which contain large mixing reservoirs and the necessary machines to do the work. One person tried to show us one of these plants in Jarf al-Naddaf area, but our attempt failed. We were misled. We entered a plant where the owners have clearly hid all the materials. The plant looked as if it had nothing to do with oil, but oil spots were visible on the floor and walls.

We can say that the shortages in this substance and the insufficient quantity the people receive from the state are the reason they turn to these salespeople, who exercise fraud to make a good profit. What is the solution, then?

We went to the Oil Ministry, which has statistics about the incidents caused by adulterated engine oil and is fully aware of what is happening in this regard, to get involved. It has tried very hard to limit this phenomenon, but the tragedy was greater. We asked a responsible Oil Ministry official how does the ministry exercise control over engine oil? Does it test the oil? When does it allow oil to be sold to the people? The ministry official replied: We are fully aware of the adulteration and fraud being committed by some people. We have launched campaigns to limit this phenomenon. We found hundreds and even thousands of unlabeled cans and bottles. This is unacceptable and shows that the oil in these cans is adulterated. Large quantities of oil products are in the market. They include hydraulic oil, transmission oil, SAE oil, and various types of grease. These products are displayed in shops in large quantities. They have not been subjected to laboratory examination. When we took samples and examined them in the Oil Ministry's laboratories, we found out that they did not meet the specifications and are not suitable for use. They would adversely affect the engine transmission and other parts. They also would damage industrial equipment and machines, causing a halt in production.

[ALIF BA'] Although the products are adulterated, some of them have not affected the cars of some people?

[Oil Ministry official] This is because their effect does not appear immediately. The damage will appear after sometime when engine parts begin wearing out. Unfortunately, the people do not pay attention to this problem, despite our warning.

[ALIF BA'] People have talked about the methods of adulteration. What is your comment?

[Official] Yes, some of them have devised extraordinary ways to commit fraud and make profit at the expense of the people.

[ALIF BA'] In light of what you have said, how do you assess the accuracy of laboratory tests and the honesty of the employees in examining the oil and approving it?

[Official] Our laboratories enjoy high integrity because the Oil Ministry is the party responsible for determining the established specifications of all oil products.

[ALIF BA'] Are there other supervisory bodies?

[Official] We are the only body that supervises and inspects.

[ALIF BA'] Nevertheless, the people say that while the control over production might be good, the control over marketing these products is weak, and the people are still buying adulterated products?

[Official] The views differ in this regard. What happens is that we control and inspect the goods in shops, but we cannot control the deception methods and fraud operations. The Oil Ministry has tried to send to the market large quantities of labeled oil products and will continue to do so in the future. The ministry will also continue to make frequent inspection tours of shops. During the past two months, orders were issued to the pertinent authorities to withdraw the adulterated oil from the markets.

[ALIF BA'] What do you want the people to do?

[Official] We advise the people not to buy any unidentified product that contains no commercial label in order not to fall victim to fraud.

Saddam Speaks on Overspending, Respect for Law

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[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn has said that ignoring overspending when executing projects and plans and failing to control and check expenditure not only leads to a visible financial loss, but will also lead to an invisible loss in the human being. The latter loss, the president said, cannot be compensated because such an administrative failure will damage the spirit of employees. This will be a bad situation that will influence the conduct of their children and families. Should it become collective, and goes without supervision or calling to account, it will influence the entire society.

His excellency wondered: Is it in our principles to allow any disturbance of the human value?

His excellency, may God protect him, added: The importance of the projects implemented by the ministries is one thing, and indifference toward spending state funds is another, especially since we know that there is, occasionally, a significant margin of disguised unemployment or mismanagement. If the minister or official in charge takes note of these two points and follows their details, regularly and strictly, he will improve the performance, in quantity, quality, and time. This will, in the end, reduce expenditure and improve performance.

The statements of the president, may God protect him, were made during the cabinet's 27th session, chaired by his excellency.

Addressing the Cabinet members, his excellency said: We, and the people must get used to respecting the law. We must not violate the law, except by a law. How can we expect our people to respect traffic lights, for example, if we are all not used to respecting them?

During its 27th session, the cabinet discussed the topics on its agenda. The cabinet endorsed a law to preserve the irrigation and drainage channels and the associated structures, to manage and operate them according to the set designs, to protect the irrigated land against negligence, salinity, or low fertility, and to specify the agencies charged with supervising these tasks.

The cabinet also endorsed a proposal to set up the general commission to operate and maintain the Saddam River and utilize the lands on both sides of the river for grazing or agricultural purposes. The cabinet also discussed regulations concerning the assessment of the value of the property whose ownership is transferred from one state agency or department to another. The cabinet also discussed other organizational and administrative matters and adopted the necessary decisions.

Journalist Sa'd al-Bazzaz Interviewed

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[Report on interview with journalist Sa'd al-Bazzaz by Salih Qallab in Amman; date not given: "I Discovered the Truth Long Ago and Do Not Regret What I've Done; I Am Part of a Whole Generation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Until about three years ago, Iraqi writer and journalist Sa'd al-Bazzaz was one of the most important media figures in the Baghdad regime. He was the editor in chief of the government newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH [THE REPUBLIC], general manager of the radio and television stations, and director of the Iraqi News Agency. At one time he was seen as a close confidant of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and was among the very few allowed to peruse the minutes of secret sessions to set the direction for the official media.

Al-Bazzaz, who jumped off the Iraqi Government train after a long trip directly after the end of the Kuwait war, was born in Mosul, northern Iraq, in 1951.

The fact is that al-Bazzaz, who split from his country's regime two years ago, kept so quiet, not speaking up about his conflict with the regime, that many of his friends and acquaintances whispered that his story was a fabrication, that his presence abroad in this way may have been on the direct orders of the government.

After al-Bazzaz accompanied the two great Iraqi poets, Muhammad Mahdi al-Jawahiri and 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Bayati, to the recent al-Janadriyah Festival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he and the two poets were the targets of harsh Iraqi press attacks. A decision was made, depriving all three of their civil rights and withdrawing their Iraqi citizenship. This moved al-Bazzaz to break his silence and announce his split with the regime, of which he had for so long been a part.

Al-Bazzaz has begun publishing his second book about the Gulf war, which is appearing in our sister newspaper, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT [THE MIDDLE EAST].

AL-MAJALLAH conducted this interview with him in Amman, where he was packing his bags to move to a new place of exile. Here he answers many frequently asked questions.

[Qallab] Was your going to al-Janadriyah the reason for the Iraqi press campaign against you and the withdrawal of the citizenship of your country, or was that just the straw that broke the camel's back?

[Al-Bazzaz] It would be more fitting to ask: Why did we go to al-Janadriyah, I and the poets Muhammad Mahdi al-Jawahiri and 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Bayyati? Our initiative in taking part in the cultural festival was to repair the damage done by politics and the rift. Our aim was to reconnect the citizens of one community and one culture. When we went, the three of us expressed a mutual understanding of the destructive outcome of the policy of isolation imposed on the Iraqi people. The fact of the matter is that we were representing our people, their spirit, and their will, regarding cultural continuity, especially with our brothers in the Arab nation. We did not go to al-Janadriyah as representatives of any organization or political direction in opposition or not in opposition. We did it openly and based on a courageous decision, and we were free in our choice. We thought the moment was right and even historic for making this visit. The basic idea for the visit was aimed at confirming the absence of any rift or historical dispute between the Iraqi and Saudi peoples. I believe that our appearance at al-Janadriyah eased the visible conflict between these two fraternal countries and relegated it to its political dimension.

We sent the message that the circumstantial rift between the two countries and peoples must not continue, and I believe that in this regard we achieved a major success. The politicians in positions of responsibility in our country, Iraq, have wrought catastrophes and entangled our people in tense policies characterized by rupture and internecine fighting with our neighboring brothers. Thus we found that to heal this deep rift and restore our old ties to their proper status, we ought to make this decision to go to al-Janadriyah. I reaffirm that we will go to al-Janadriyah again and to any Arab festival that reinforces the natural state of the peoples of the Arab world.

[Qallab] Given the publication of the well known reaction against you, do you feel you succeeded in your mission, or have they blocked the path to this mission?

[Al-Bazzaz] I must praise and salute the spirit in which our Saudi brothers dealt with us. They were at the pinnacle of pride, above all petty judgments, and we found that they approached every issue with open minds. This reassured us that we had not erred in going to al-Janadriyah and reassured us that we had succeeded in the mission for whose sake we had gone there. We view this attack from Baghdad as trivial. We do not blame those who have written against us because we know they have no credibility and are just under orders. They were given orders to undertake this unfair attack and to be insolent toward important Iraqis. They made a decision, as I said, to deprive us of our civil rights. I say that they are not in a position to give national certificates or grant rights to the people of Iraq. It is our people in Iraq who have authority over all, and they know who the real traitors are and who destroyed our country.

A Son of Iraq

[Qallab] You are one of those who knows Iraqi President Saddam Husayn personally and who has at least worked in the atmosphere around him. Do you think the measures taken against you came without his knowledge?

[Al-Bazzaz] It is a known fact that there is no democracy in Iraq, nor are there voices capable of expressing such insolence toward important Iraqi figures, on this scale, on their own personal initiative. What was done against us was not without a direct order from within the authority of the Iraqi Government.

[Qallab] Many of your colleagues see you as the errant son, a son mutinying against the regime of which you were a part.

[Al-Bazzaz] As I said, I am a legitimate son of Iraq and a member of the second generation which built Iraq. This is the generation that engaged in big battles in accordance with the slogans that have carried us away since the 1960s. This is the generation that includes the cream of the engineers, technicians, physicians, professors, preachers, nurses, writers, poets, and artists. Iraq is ours, and when we embarked upon these great missions, we were not doing it to serve individuals or factions; we were part of a renaissance. Unfortunately, this project was turned into a dinosaur-like creature which is eating the children of this national project itself. There are two mentalities that have dominated in Iraq. There is a mentality rejecting war, cruelty, fraud, and discrimination on the basis of sect, ethnicity, or regionalism, which appeals for a democratic, pluralistic, and modern society. The other mentality is merely the product of a backward, agricultural society, unqualified to produce a political industry at a level suited to the demands of this age and capable of meeting its challenges. The conduct of foreign policy, as is well known, is a close reflection of the exercise of policy at home, and domestic faults are reflected abroad. It is clear that had there been excellent government within the country, Iraq would not have been subjected to all these disasters and embroiled in all these predicaments.

[Qallab] You are talking in generalities, in philosophical terms. We want to know exactly why you were divorced from this regime, which you were part of until so recently.

[Al-Bazzaz] What I said is the basis. The matter is not a personal one; the split between me and the regime came about when I wrote my book *One War Brings Another*. There were those who thought I would commit the historical sin of describing the catastrophe as a victory or ignoring the fact that it could have been better. I did not commit that sin, and the regime's wrath came down upon me.

[Qallab] You were not merely a journalist or writer but an official of the state. You were one of the major cogs in this immense machine, whether it was hellish and diabolical or compassionate. Why this belated "awakening"?

[Al-Bazzaz] First of all, I was not a cog in the hellish machine. I was working on the intellectual side and the political side, and I do not regret anything I did because I believed I was serving my country and my nation. The case of Sa'd al-Bazzaz here is the same as a whole generation which should have faced the challenges imposed on Iraq and help Iraq through them. There was not enough time for a man to catch his breath. We were in a fierce and furious battle, and it was difficult for us to enjoy a fighter's rest and catch our breath before the battle ended. The situation Iraq has experienced over the past two decades and the sudden transition from one state of emergency to another, from one state of conflict to another, from one major crisis to an even bigger one, in addition to the technical problems, all delayed our mass emergence to this new time which should have called for modernization, the implementation of freedoms, respect for human rights, the elimination of fraud, cruelty, and violence, and the extrication of the Iraqi people from the predicament they were in.

[Qallab] You lived through historical events and were a witness to some of the internal purges. Why were you silent all that time? You did not reveal the truth until this late date.

[Al-Bazzaz] I would be lying if I said I discovered the truth only at this late date. We discovered the truth long before now, but we were promised that what was happening was an exceptional case; that we would soon emerge from the darkness and move into the light; that all the losses, all the types of behavior, were temporary, circumstantial, and fleeting. There were those who said that those tremendous losses could be sustained as long as the plan got where it was going. We would build a modern, advanced country and an honest society free of discrimination and purged of oppression. The problem was that we emerged from one catastrophe and went into a new one. No sooner were we free of one crisis than we went into the furnace of a new crisis which need not have occurred. This continual gravitation toward postponing the adoption of a proper political performance usually happens in times of stability, when one can catch his breath. In the end, remaining silent was unbearable, given what was happening, to record all the catastrophes against an unknown, after the plan for a national renaissance had moved in a different direction, gutted of its masses and its participants. In implementation, it became totally contrary to what had been on paper and in my hopes.

Breaking Point

[Qallab] Everything has a breaking point. What was the breaking point that led you to make this momentous decision, to leave the regime which you had been an important part of for many years?

[Al-Bazzaz] There was supposed to have been partnership in the sense that you were a partner in decision-making so that you became a committed partner in bearing the consequences that resulted. We believed things should be that way, though the decisive moment was when we discovered the lie of partnership. What was expected of this second generation was that it be a servant, that it be killed off, enjoying not even the right of remaining above the tombstones they had built. That moment made possible the parting of ways. Let those who made the decision alone bear the consequences of the decision.

[Qallab] Now you have been outside Iraq for three years or more. What fears did you have when you prepared for this momentous step, this ultimate risk?

[Al-Bazzaz] I left my country for the unknown. There is nothing harder than being without a country, no matter how comfortable other places of refuge might be. What drove me to this decision was my feeling that I would not to take part in the sin or be silent in the face of error, so I chose exile, with all its difficulties and challenges.

[Qallab] What were you relying on when you stood on the brink of your momentous decision to leave Baghdad this way?

[Al-Bazzaz] I had two guardians: Almighty God and my own mind. I am sure that Almighty God was with me and that I used my mind in such as way as to overcome dangers. I know that the cruelty in my country is widespread, sparing no one, and that the danger was real and right in front of me, but these considerations did not delay the choice or the consequences. My thoughts were of history, so I was calm and reassured.

[Qallab] How did you get your children out of Iraq?

[Al-Bazzaz] Please forgive me for not answering that question.

[Qallab] After you left Iraq, your name was still on the AL-JUMHURIYAH masthead as editor in chief for so long that people thought you were an envoy on a mission for President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government.

[Al-Bazzaz] If this government had political efficacy of a structured nature or even complex and advanced politics, these fears might have been justified. I think those who imagined that were actually exaggerating their estimation of the type and scale of politics in Baghdad. The political machine is a product proceeding from political crews more competent than those who gave us the weak and complicated political show during the crises Iraq has experienced in past decades. I had to resort to one of two things. In order to say I am not like that, then I must make clear what I am. It was not appropriate to volunteer to throw myself in a corner to defend myself, and it was not like me to agree to mount this sort of defense. As to why my name continued to appear in the newspaper, that is another subject. You know that the appearance of my name would have given me the illusion that I could still return to Iraq, but I did not fall for that illusion.

[Qallab] Have they made any attempt to repair this discord so that you might return to Baghdad?

[Al-Bazzaz] Yes, very many, and in every instance I had a response I viewed as the most correct.

[Qallab] There are senior officials in the regime who are not in the opposition at home or abroad. Were they surprised by your presence abroad? Did they try to work reconciliation and secure your return?

[Al-Bazzaz] First of all, such people were not surprised by my decision, and second, they don't want there to be any reconciliation.

[Qallab] You met President Saddam Husayn several times. You must have felt warm toward him some of those times, just as at other times you felt anger. When did you like him and when did you get angry at him?

[Al-Bazzaz] In either case, I felt I was bound to write history at some point. Thus I refer you to my writings, which will appear consecutively; this does not mean I am running away from your question.

The Most Dangerous Years for Iraq

[Qallab] When did you become convinced that Iraq would be facing a major collapse in the last 10 years?

[Al-Bazzaz] The most dangerous years for Iraq, as I saw them, were the two years between the war with Iran and the decision to go into Kuwait. In those two years, we assumed that after Iraq emerged from eight years of war, it would go on to build its civil ideal in political life and that everything having to do with the state of emergency would vanish. For the first time, we would have a permanent constitution in the country in which Hammurabi formulated the first legislation in the history of mankind, and it was the right of this people to have a first-class constitution respecting human rights, dignity, and freedom. We, the second generation, were waiting for that transformation, and when the war with Iran ended, our joy stemmed from our yearning for the other model in our political life, a model freed from the art of making enemies, inventing battles, and turning deferred battles into actual existing battles. These two fateful years ended in that catastrophic moment on 2 August 1990. I may say that that day was the blackest day ever in the minds of millions of Iraqis and in the eyes of the second generation.

[Qallab] By that you mean you did not think Iraq would achieve victory in the second Gulf war?

[Al-Bazzaz] Absolutely not. Nor did the senior military men, economists, or intellectuals, and the masses of people thought the same way. Everyone knew that we were walking into a catastrophe with our eyes open; as if the country had given in to fate and was no longer able to free itself from giving in to the disaster. It was as if there was no other choice, although many other options were available to turn the crisis around in a different way, in all its aspects: military, political, informational, and economic.

[Qallab] You said in your recent book that only three people knew of the plan to invade Kuwait, and you named them. Was it a recent decision or was it a decision planned long before, either during the Iran-Iraq war or after it ended?

[Al-Bazzaz] This will be a topic of debate for a long time. I have proof that this decision was a relatively recent one and was not the result of a programmed military or political plan for any long time. Moments of rage and hasty euphoria after the end of the war with Iran were what created what we saw.

[Qallab] So you think the decision was spontaneous?

[Al-Bazzaz] Let me give you a simple example. Do you remember how the Emir of Kuwait was received in Iraq?

At the time, I was running the radio and television, and Iraqi singers had to sing in praise of him. They were not allowed to do this for the leaders of other countries. They sang to him to express gratitude for his policies during the war with Iran. Shaykh Jabir was granted the highest honors in Iraq, and all this happened just a few months before 2 August 1990. Words of the utmost gratitude and grandiloquence were spoken in his honor, for his policies, and for the policies of Kuwait during the war with Iran. Is that not proof that the decision had not been made long in advance and that the decision was the result of a moment of intoxication, irritation, and lack of foresight? In all simplicity and without going into detail—because the dossier on relations with Kuwait is not public yet—studying the military option was not brought up for discussion until 28 June 1990; that is, 34 days before 2 August. At that point, a meeting was held with the president, attended by only six people, and in that meeting for the first time there was talk of using military force in dealing with Kuwait.

[Qallab] That was after the oil price crisis?

[Al-Bazzaz] Because of the clamor of that crisis over the drop in oil prices on the international market, that meeting was held 24 hours after the return of a presidential envoy who had been visiting Kuwait and a number of other Arab Gulf states.

[Qallab] So wasn't the decision made in that meeting?

[Al-Bazzaz] The idea of resorting to force came up, without specifying the scale of force or the means of using it, or the extent to which it would be used. The timing did not come up, though the military option as a method was proposed.

Contact With the Americans

[Qallab] There are those who say the Kuwait decision was the result of a misunderstanding of the American position and the Arab position as well. Inevitably there are those who accused the Iraqi head of state of being part of an international game that led to what ultimately occurred. Do you think the contact with the Americans consisted only of that famous meeting with Ambassador Glaspie, or are there other signs?

[Al-Bazzaz] I have reviewed the series of contacts with the United States, going back to 1988 and 1989, when President George Bush came to power in the White House. Some of those contacts dealt with cooperation and coordination in political, security, and economic matters, so we must not base everything on one meeting with Glaspie.

[Qallab] Iraqi decisions went as far as they could go, then went back to square one. Don't you think the same is the case with the crisis of the two U.S. prisoners in Baghdad?

[Al-Bazzaz] In Iraq, a decision can be made, but it cannot evolve. This has been the case for a long time, and you can see it in a whole series of positions; a decision is made without any clear plan for knowing the alternatives in the event it should fail or without arranging a means of retreat. So the decision starts out big, then melts away suddenly or falls back but without any organized retreat. The case of the two imprisoned Americans is minor and secondary and may have been inspired by the possibility of creating secret diplomacy, but it was too late to make secret diplomacy with Washington; there were doors open very wide.

[Qallab] Even after the war?

[Al-Bazzaz] Until the eve of the war. After the war, there were those in the United States who thought it possible to revive what remained of the old relations and activate some of its bases, but the positions of the Democrats and the Republicans have been unified on the question of Iraq, blocking this road, making it difficult or impossible for us to use.

[Qallab] You know a great many of the secrets of the Iraqi Government. Aren't you afraid of being assassinated?

[Al-Bazzaz] That fear would be very belated. You choose a position and stick to it. I have no time left in which to feel afraid, and there is no room for fear within me. I know they want my head, and there is no one in power who is ready to accept the political action or views I am offering. There are those whose power lies in the fear felt by others, so let them know that I have no fear.

[Qallab] There are those who say you wrote your first book, *One War Brings Another* about the war, to defend the Iraqi regime in a rational way, and what happened was that you misunderstood the regime and that your understanding of the regime was wrong, so this split came about.

[Al-Bazzaz] I wrote that book in Iraq. It was written in a certain atmosphere and under known restrictions and specific circumstances. Do not think that book said everything. It may have told part of the truth. Indeed, it did tell a small part of the truth. Now I am free of all the restrictions that held me back when I wrote that book, and I have many things I will say when the right moment comes.

[Qallab] Are you preparing big bombshells now that you are free?

[Al-Bazzaz] I am not preparing to drop any bombshells or have any fits, but I will give my testimony before history, and I will continue to do so. What I was unable to say in the past I will say in my future books. In any case, you will not see me personalizing the issues. I am writing about major issues, not about people, no matter how influential they might be in events. The duty of a witness to history is to follow events, not to see the people who are on and off the political scene because all that is is the graphical representation of the event. In that book, I said things many Iraqi officials considered to be breakthroughs and a depiction of the catastrophe; it should not sustain the outcome and responsibilities because it was done on the hypothesis that "it was the best that could be done." The book observed the existence of a long series of options open to the Iraqi Government, though the government chose the worst of them and the most costly to the present and future of the country.

[Qallab] You were one of the people enriching a certain category of Arab journalist in the days when Iraq was deluging them with money. What do you think now?

[Al-Bazzaz] What I remember very well is that I attracted those who adopted the Iraqi position during the war with Iran.

[Qallab] Because you considered the cause a just one?

[Al-Bazzaz] Because I could not bear—and cannot bear—anyone threatening one inch of Iraq's territory or wanting to deprive its people; that is why I paid attention to our supporters in that cause.

Opposition Without Opposition

[Qallab] Now that you have parted ways with the regime in Iraq, where are you going? Not in terms of place, but in terms of policy and political action?

[Al-Bazzaz] I'm not going anywhere. I am here and I am staying in my place, which allows me to study options to ward off new disasters from Iraq and to keep it from spilling more blood and sustaining more losses. Studying these options is a complex intellectual and political task, and it is best for me not to classify myself by prevailing labels, not to ignore them or to deny their importance. I just believe anyone who chooses to be a writer can become, himself, the messenger, the bridge, and the witness.

[Qallab] That means you will not join any Iraqi opposition group based abroad?

[Al-Bazzaz] There is a complete and comprehensive Iraqi national movement, and we are equal in our role with any other Iraqi in the most distant exile from this national diaspora which includes more than 3 million Iraqis abroad. Thus being part of the climate of national legitimacy is better than rallying around one particular banner.

[Qallab] Iraq is living with a detached north and a south not under its control and with an internal situation suffering from poverty and want. How can you assess the situation in Iraq? How can you characterize what is happening?

[Al-Bazzaz] The situation is one of paying the dues of defeat. There are those who do not want to acknowledge that it was a defeat, and there are those who still want to characterize the catastrophe as a "victory." A victory over whom? A victory over what? Is it a victory that a plan for the partition of Iraq has been proposed? Or is the victory that the children are starving in the richest country of all surrounding lands? Despite the depth of its wounds and the harshness of the suffering of our people in Iraq, this country will move on to a situation unlike the one in which you see today. There is a general desire on the part of the Iraqis to gain some benefit from the tragedies of yesterday in order to establish a civil society and a political and civil model based on social peace at home and good neighborly relations with others abroad. Those who bore the burden of the wars, which did not have to happen, are the thirstiest for peace among themselves and with others. This desire is dominant today, contrary to what is said that the alternatives are always those that will lead to more bloodshed and tragedy. Those who saw these catastrophes and bore their consequences deserve peace the most. The other thing that provides for optimism is that it is in the interest of most of the regional powers that Iraq remain unified.

[Qallab] Are you fearful for the unity of Iraq?

[Al-Bazzaz] No. Iraq will never be partitioned for the following three reasons. First, the will of its people, who know that going for partition will end in the greatest tragedy they have yet seen. Thus the general longing of the Iraqis, despite their different inclinations, affiliations, regions, sects, and ethnicities, is to come together in the melting pot of a single country which allows them relations free of discrimination on any basis, whether ethnic, regional, or sectarian. Second, there is no regional benefit in partitioning Iraq because it would hurt everyone. If this country is partitioned, the plans for partitions will hurt others, too. Third, there is no global wish for the partition of Iraq due to this country's importance to the world, which lies in it remaining unified and remaining rich, too.

[Qallab] What is the greatest danger for Iraq?

[Al-Bazzaz] The nearest danger is that of greater disintegration in the system of values and for the deterioration in the chain of priorities in the ladder of values to continue, due to the absence of social safety, the suffering of the people from danger, and the triumph of violence as the prevalent logic in general in the country. Thus, some of the values that should have remained secondary have disappeared, and priority in the chain of the ladder of values has too. This ladder must restore the scale of priorities anew. I am one of those who fear the continued deterioration in this sense, and any political action in the future will be an abyss reflecting the phenomena of social and value-related convulsions.

Contacts Between Iraq and Israel

[Qallab] There is persistent talk of contacts between the Iraqi Government and Israel. When did these contacts begin?

[Al-Bazzaz] Yes, before the Kuwaiti issue, in 1989 specifically, there were people carrying messages to the foreign minister at the time, from senior Iraqi officials, and there were answers coming back from Baghdad. The bearers of these messages were journalists and businessmen. There were meetings at personal, non-official levels on both sides. Now, however, the subject merits no great debate, now that a senior Iraqi official has said the "the state of war with Israel is considered to be over as far as Iraq is concerned." I do not think it likely or possible for such a declaration to be made unless it was the result of a series of unforeseen arrangements.

[Qallab] Is it true that it was the United States that cut off these contacts?

[Al-Bazzaz] What was proposed after the Gulf War in Baghdad was that this conduit would be entered into in any case, but through whom would this take place and under whose umbrella? Would it be under an Arab umbrella, at a time when more than one Arab country was competing to carry Iraq's brief? The other thing that was proposed: what prize would we get? Would entering this conduit of relations with Israel be part of a reconciliation with the United States and our re-assimilation into the international community?

Here two elements emerge refuting all these ideas. The first is that the Israelis have paid no attention to the signals coming from Baghdad. Instead of welcoming them, they said the government in Baghdad was not qualified to join the peace process. From the political and subjective point of view, the Israelis said many things, but they committed themselves to nothing for the Iraqi Government. The other element is that the United States did not allow there to be any change in dealing with the Iraqi issue on a regional basis, even for the sake of their beloved Israel. Anything of this type should have been through Washington.

[Qallab] The question on everyone's mind is: Does the United States really want to topple Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Bazzaz] Publicly, yes, but publicly is not enough. The United States, the biggest country in the world, is not the kind of country in which events or developments may delay the establishment of its interests in a country as important and as rich as Iraq.

In the country with the world's second largest oil reserves and the world's greatest sulfur reserve, with unlimited reserves of rare minerals including uranium, and with the richest agricultural land in the region, there is an educational base enabling it to establish a medium level of industries and modernization in societal structures. Thus making policies toward this country cannot be based on the creation of changes in names and faces if they do not fulfill all the requirements of these names. Thus the priorities of the United States are to secure its interests in Iraq and to filter the positive results from the Gulf war for other global partners and rivals at the expense of the supposed U.S. interests in Iraq's oil and economy.

[Qallab] Will the day come when the United States offers its hand to Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Bazzaz] That day is not yet visible on the horizon.

From Within the Government Itself

[Qallab] The Saddam Husayn regime appears to be strong because the opposition is abroad and weak and the situation in the north is desperate. Is there any likelihood of change from within the ruling establishment?

[Al-Bazzaz] Why are we speaking of likelihood? Why are we not speaking of facts and events? All that's been said was of coup attempts in the years since 1986 until today, and this came from people who came out of the army or the party and from regions that are influential in the institution of government. The question is: Were the people in power satisfied with the way the country was being run? The answer is absolutely not. Many scenarios discussed by the media abroad are not accurate. This country will produce a model from its own womb.

[Qallab] It is said that those who joined the opposition abroad only did so after they lost their positions in the government, as happened in the case of the former chief of military intelligence, Wafiq al-Samarra'i. Why did he not join the opposition when he had some authority?

[Al-Bazzaz] Why ask me? Ask him.

[Qallab] And you—what happened?

[Al-Bazzaz] Neither this nor that. I left my government posts of my own free will and imposed what I wanted and left Iraq at a time when I would have been able to stay on in my posts for a long time, had I wanted to. I am not offering myself as a player in a specific framework, as I am no more or less than a writer.

Security and Propaganda

[Qallab] Who protects Saddam Husayn? It is said that it is guards or the party. Why is he still there? It is said that he got rid of all his political opponents and he remains. How did that happen?

[Al-Bazzaz] Politicians in Baghdad may imagine that "security and propaganda" alone are sufficient in maintaining the entity of the state or imposing its legitimacy. The state is greater than security in the technical sense and greater than propaganda. A state is founded only if the people want it. The continued existence of a political model without popular approval means there is an obstinacy in the security and propaganda services. This government is present at this time because the masses of the people have pressing priorities relating to their suffering under the sanctions. They are priorities having to do with obtaining their basic necessities; the priorities of hunger sometimes take precedence over the fear of waiting for communique number one. The priority of coping with the absence of social security makes the mass of people long for a solution to individual problems rather than strive for sweeping or comprehensive solutions in society.

[Qallab] What is the alternative to Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Bazzaz] Iraq needs an alternative which is an institution, not an individual. Names are not important. Who's in and who's out is not important. The important thing is how we can move forward and build an institution guaranteeing an Iraq free from oppression and cruelty. I think the second generation is capable of providing this institution.

[Qallab] Do you think the Ba'th Party is still fit to lead Iraq?

[Al-Bazzaz] There is no one party capable of ruling Iraq alone or jointly. The only option the Ba'th Party has if it wants to enjoy legitimacy in the future of this country is to be one of the colors in the political spectrum and not the only color and not wielding power alone. The experience of government in eastern Europe proved that the communist parties that wielded exclusive power for half a century quickly split up or reformulated themselves to become a part of political pluralism. The idea of holding power exclusively has experienced a historic downfall.

Names

[Qallab] What is your comment on these names: 'Adnan Khayrallah?

[Al-Bazzaz] He was acceptable in the army and not rejected by the people.

[Qallab] Who killed him?

[Al-Bazzaz] No comment.

[Qallab] Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid?

[Al-Bazzaz] His ambition drove him to glory...or...

[Qallab] 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Samarra'i?

[Al-Bazzaz] Still present.

[Qallab] How?

[Al-Bazzaz] In his piety and thought.

[Qallab] Shafiq al-Kamali?

[Al-Bazzaz] He died wrongly.

[Qallab] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr?

[Al-Bazzaz] He was afraid of a coup against him and sometimes behaved like a senior functionary rather than a head of state.

[Qallab] Who is the person you most admire in Iraq's history?

[Al-Bazzaz] Everyone who attained power constitutionally and left it constitutionally.

[Qallab] Where will I see you in 1996?

[Al-Bazzaz] We have an appointment in Baghdad.

Commentary on '81 Israeli Bombing of Nuclear Plant

95LH0204A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 6

[Commentary by 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abdallah]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been 14 years since Zionist aircraft carried out an air raid against the Tammuz nuclear reactor, destroying it completely. This anniversary has always generated interest because it marks an unjustified military aggression. Iraq is not on the contact line with (Israel) geographically. Its army is not engaged in a military confrontation with it. The Tammuz nuclear reactor was a scientific installation designed for peaceful purposes. The importance of this anniversary has become clearer and more defined by the subsequent developments.

The aggression took place nine months after the outbreak of the war between Iraq and Iran. It seems that the Zionist entity has chosen this particular situation as a technical background for its aggression. The aggression aroused the indignation of the world and the condemnation of its international organizations. It also aroused the anger of the Arab people and their organizations, which held a conference in Baghdad for this purpose. President leader Saddam Husayn expressed Iraq's reaction to this crime in a statement he made to the Council of Ministers in its first meeting after the aggression.

He said: We are determined to possess a nuclear reactor similar to or better than the one hit by the Zionist enemy and with the same specifications.

One of the lessons of this aggression is: We must take the important strategic elements of our economy, science, and technology and lower them deeper into the ground until it becomes impossible for an atomic bomb to achieve its objective in a direct hit.

Another lesson is: (Israel) is prepared psychologically and practically to carry out a military operation against us whenever it can obtain the technical capabilities for that, as it is the enemy of the Arabs. Iraq is in the forefront of the Arabs who are trying to expose it and resist its aggression.

However, by this aggression, it has committed a big strategic mistake. The Iraqis and the Arabs have learned the lesson, and it will not be able to achieve such an objective in the future.

We will leave the Iraqi response to this aggression to the future. It depends on many factors. Our people are the type who do not forget their enemies.

The United States condemned the aggression just as the world did, but its President Ronald Reagan said then: Israel has a reason to be concerned about the possibility that Iraq would produce the bomb because Iraq has not signed the armistice agreement, has not recognized Israel as a state, and has not participated in any peace effort. The president leader commented on this statement in an interview with the U.S. ABC television network. He said: Iraq was not the only country that did not sign such agreements. (Israel) wants the Arabs to remain backward and itself to remain strong to oppress them. The U.S. President was unfair in what he said.

The picture remained overshadowed, but the relations between the United States and Iraq returned to normal. At the beginning of the nineties, the American media suddenly began attacking Iraq on various issues. American and British establishments began fabricating stories and problems until they adopted a decision banning the export of technology to Iraq.

This was accompanied by the fabrication of problems with one Arab country or another. They were all solved before the Arab summit conference in Baghdad in March 1990. One of them, however, exploded after the conference, creating the mother of battles. In this conflict, the United States itself tried to cripple Iraq by destroying its important economic structures. It also tried to destroy its scientific development projects through [UN Security Council] Resolution 687. It is clear that the destruction of Iraq was not done for the sake of Kuwait as they claimed. The United States normally does not care about ruling dynasties like the Kuwaiti Government. It was interested in dominating the oil resources. The way to do this was to keep the oil countries divided, ensure that (Israel) remain stronger than all the Arab states, and keep the Arabs in a backward state. The United States has completed what the Zionist entity had started on its behalf on 7 June 1981, and this conclusion explains the beginning.

Peres on Zikhron Talks Results, Alexandria Summit

TA2007053895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres informed Labor ministers that his talks in Alexandria with 'Arafat and Mubarak were good and that the deliberations with the Palestinians in Zikhron Ya'aqov are beginning to yield results.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 20 July adds: "Peres said that in his talks with PLO leader 'Arafat and President Mubarak in Alexandria, very important understandings were reached on water issues and the further redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Judaea and Samaria, among other things. Minister Peres explained that he chooses not to publicize the content of these understandings before they are precisely worded and put in writing. He also noted 'Arafat's determination to act against terror — a determination that was voiced yesterday. 'Arafat realizes very well that if there is terror there will be no coexistence, the foreign minister said this morning, and ever since the Palestinian Authority solidified its position, terror has dropped drastically in Gaza."]

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the main topic of the meeting was next year's state budget. Some ministers said that the current budget should not be cut and that attention should be paid to social needs and not only to security. Interior Minister Ehud Baraq, who was attending such a meeting for the first time, proposed to discuss economic objectives and not just the budget, and the ministers decided to hold another session on the issue.

Peres: No Crisis in Syria Negotiations 'Slowdown'

TA2007102795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says there is a slowdown in the negotiations with Syria but Israel does not want to turn it into a crisis. Referring to the negotiations with the Palestinians, he said Israel will pursue them until they are completed. He added that terror in Gaza has almost ceased and that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been losing power as the economic situation there improves. Minister Peres spoke during a tour of 'Akko and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

Mubarak Said Effective Mediator in Peace Talks

TA2007104995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 95 p 1

[Commentary by David Makovsky: "Mubarak's Cameo Peace Role"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak initiated yesterday's meeting last weekend, in another attempt to play a cameo role in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that have gone very far without the intervention of any third party.

However, Israel has found it in its interest to accommodate an Egyptian request to be at the center of Middle East peace negotiations. Some say that Egyptian interest has grown because it is seeking to deflect public attention from tensions with Moslem fundamentalists following last month's attempt on Mubarak's life.

Mubarak is seen by Israel as one of the only Arab leaders who has an influence on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. On the eve of the signing of the Cairo Agreement in May 1994, Mubarak would visibly demonstrate impatience with 'Arafat's unwillingness to compromise. "Halas (enough) Abu-'Ammar," a weary Mubarak would declare at certain moments of an all-night session, calling 'Arafat by his nom de guerre. Israel also found it easier at times to make a gesture to Mubarak than to 'Arafat.

However, on a deeper level, Israel believes Mubarak is the only one who can provide 'Arafat with the Arab imprimatur needed for making compromises with Israel on sensitive issues. The Egyptian leader provides 'Arafat with legitimacy, serving as a key political counterweight to some hard-line Palestinian advisers who believe 'Arafat is not obtaining enough concessions from Israel.

Current talks in Zikhron Ya'aqov have made relatively little headway, as some Palestinian advisers to 'Arafat want the PLO leader to backtrack or "reinterpret" agreements already reached with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres believes that at this pace, the July 25 deadline will not be met and arguments could continue endlessly. Therefore, Peres went to Alexandria — in large measure to find out whether 'Arafat had sufficient political will to cut out the carping in Zikhron and meet next Tuesday's target date.

The feeling is that only Mubarak could convince 'Arafat that it is better to compromise now and present this agreement to international donors gathered in the U.S., which would promote further funding of the Palestinian

Authority, than to engage in open-ended debates without a deadline in sight.

Christopher Urged To Change Actions Toward Syria

TA1907143895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "Let Him Stay Home"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Had the Syrian track worked out, the Syrian delegation in Washington might have, God forbid, run into Yasir 'Arafat, Yitzhaq Rabin, or perhaps even King Husayn on their way to the annual garden party at the White House. But in order to remove this obstacle from Hafiz al—Asad's way the State Department came up with a constructive idea: The Syrian officers would leave the city (on an organized tour to Disneyland?) for the duration of the festivities and the security negotiations with their Israeli counterparts would resume after the guests cleared out of the area. Jerusalem did not object.

Sources close to the negotiations say that Syria's opposition to ground early-warning stations points to a very fundamental problem: Al-Asad has a hard time understanding that Israel really and truly needs security measures and believes the positions presented by Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq are just more tactical negotiating subterfuges. As far as he is concerned, a withdrawal, peace agreement, and mutual demilitarization ought to be enough for the most powerful country in the region which enjoys the backing of the most powerful superpower in the world.

If a bigger gap than the one between al-Asad's security concept and Rabin's approach is possible, it is to be found between the Syrian president's negotiating practices and U.S. diplomacy. The plan to get the officers out of town shows that even after 13 visits to Damascus the U.S. secretary of state does not understand the ways of his Syrian customer. It also turns out this time that Warren Christopher does not fully understand his Jerusalem ally either. This adversely affects U.S.-Israeli coordination, without which there can be no arrangement between Israel and Syria.

Shortly after the cameras at the closing ceremony of the chiefs of staff's talks in the White House were switched off, an official spokesman went out of his way to praise the al-Shihabi-Shahaq encounter. He mockingly rejected the possibility of something going wrong in the talks by the generals (it should be pointed out that this version does not square with what an Arab source told me during the chiefs of staff's talks, to the effect that al-Asad from the outset had reservations about the announcement Christopher made in Damascus and insisted that the July meeting was not in anybody's pocket). The spokesman stressed that in his latest visit to the Middle East Christopher finalized the timetable for the next three phases and that Ross' mission would be to set an agenda for the meeting of the generals. There is no doubt that the meeting will be held, the Americans emphasized.

Alas, Ross returned from Damascus empty handed, or to be more precise, as a man who had in his pocket a solid commitment to the only world superpower and he was robbed. And what did the secretary of state of that superpower have to say about it? There is nothing to get worked up about, these are complex negotiations fraught with ups and downs, please be patient, the ambassadors will meet again soon. In his television appearance last Sunday Christopher brought to mind Yitzhaq Shamir, except for the fact that he did not say "Oh well, everything will be alright." To remove doubts that these were slips of the tongue which had to be rectified, the next day, State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns downplayed the importance of Syria reneging on the agenda for the negotiations. The spokesman outdid himself when he pompously called on "the sides" to honor their commitments.

Time was when such a firm call by a U.S. mediator would have been a matter of routine in Middle East diplomacy. Were this to indicate that the United States had started to behave "superpowerly," the symmetry could be forgiven. However, no American was heard to complain that Israel had violated any agreements. This can only lead to the conclusion that the United States is once again wooing Syria. Once again it is pretending that the drops on the faces of the secretary of state and his aides are just perspiration beads typical of these hot summer days.

This is not the first time that al-Asad has sold the Americans the same goods twice or even three times. It seems that this isolated man has gotten to know them better than the army of experts in Washington know his behavior. Al-Asad lured the secretary of state to Damascus 13 times, shook Clinton's hand twice, not to mention all the conciliatory phone calls placed to him by the Oval Office. Twice the U.S. President had his picture taken with the Syrian chief of staff and praised him for deigning to come to Washington to say that no foreign soldier would set foot on Syrian territory (within the 4 June 1967 borders).

If the United States comes to the conclusion that Israel has been sticking to unreasonable positions and that it must restore its credibility in Syrian eyes, the secretary of state will board his plane for the 14th time and fly to Jerusalem and Damascus with a U.S. peace plan. However, if he departs for the Middle East just to once again wave al-Asad's recycled agreement to send his officers to Washington, he had better stay home and see to it that Congress approves aid to 'Arafat.

Interestingly enough, at one time Christopher was not ashamed to tell the Palestinians that he was fed up with traipsing around Jerusalem and that he had a world to run. It worked; they started talking directly to Israel. The time has apparently come to try out that same phrase again. There may be nothing left to lose.

Weizman Visits Lebanese Border, Comments on Peace

NC1907183795 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman visited the border area this afternoon. He was received by Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. Weizman and General Guiora Inbar, commander of the liaison unit, inspected the posts overlooking the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. He heard a report on the road Israel is building between the Marj' Uyun and Jazzin districts, which is called the peace highway. Weizman then held a news conference. In it, he said peace must be reached with all parties, but not at any price. He said: I still believe that unless Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad meets Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, there will be no progress in the peace talks.

Responding to a question by our correspondent, Weizman said: If President al-Asad only seeks to regain the Golan Heights without making genuine peace with us, we will not return one inch of the Golan to him.

Responding to a question about the goal of his visit to the border area at a time when saboteurs claim that the repeated visits to the area by Israeli officials are aimed at raising SLA soldiers' low morale, Weizman stated that SLA morale did not need anyone's testimony. He said it is only natural to visit soldiers of the Israeli army and the SLA on the front line.

Later, Weizman met with Israeli soldiers in the Marj 'Uyun barracks and talked to them about the circumstances of their service in the region. He told them that they and their SLA allies serve peace. He added that they will not leave until a fair peace is achieved, a peace that fulfills the two basic demands of Lebanon, namely, to enable SLA personnel to join the Lebanese Army and to absorb the people of the border area into the Lebanese body. Weizman ended his tour by having lunch with Gen. Antoine Lahd in the presence of senior SLA and Israeli officers.

Weizman telephoned President Husni Mubarak from the border area. In the call, he said: I hope that the Syrian president will understand what you did regarding peace.

Government Condemns Serbs, May Send Aid

TA1907154795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid has said that the Israeli Government and Knesset condemn the Serbs for the massacre they are committing, which borders on genocide.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, in response to several motions on the Knesset agenda pertaining to the war in Bosnia, Minister Sarid said that the Israeli Government is currently examining several options for providing aid to the victims of that insane war. It will, however, not send soldiers or jeopardize their lives in this war.

Trade Surplus With Japan in 1st Half of 1995

TA1807080595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by THE JERUSALEM POST staff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel registered a $127 million trade surplus with Japan in the first half of the year, after exports there rose nearly 36% while imports fell 6%.

Exports to Japan totaled $590.4m. Chemicals exports doubled to $64.6m., and prepared food exports also doubled to $10.7m.

Agricultural products were up 24% to $22m., while high-tech exports were up 20% to $69.5m.

Diamond exports were up 36%. totaling $400m.

The main drop in imports came from the decrease in the import of Japanese cars, which were down 21% to $226.5m. Industrial machine imports remained steady.

Elhanan Har'el, chairman of the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce, said the number of Israeli firms starting to market their wares in Japan bodes well for continued exports to the world's No. 2 economic power.

Likud Joins Tzomet, Moledet No-Confidence Move

TA1907154295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government over the rise in terror and the government's intention to abandon Rachel's Tomb. The motion will be discussed by the Knesset on 24 July, along with the Moledet and Tzomet motions.

Moledet Merges With Defunct Party, Changes Name

TA1907111795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moledet will be henceforth named Moledet, Tenu'at Ne'emney Eretz Yisra'el Yotz'ey Hatehiya [Movement of Eretz Yisra'el Faithful Formerly of Tehiya]. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that the name was announced by the party registrar at the request of Moledet, whose council decided to merge with Tehiya.

East Jerusalem Arabs To Pay Taxes to PA

TA2007132195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yehoshu'a Mor Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a document obtained by our correspondent, Israel has agreed to let Arabs in East Jerusalem pay their taxes to the Palestinian Authority [PA] rather than to the Israeli Treasury.

A month ago, on 21 June, a meeting was held in Cairo with the participation of Brigadier General David Shahaf, head of the Civil Administration, Captain Qobi Sharvit of the International Law Department [not further specified], and a third person, while the Arab side was represented by Dr. 'Atif 'Alawnah, the PA's assistant treasurer. It was decided in the meeting to transfer the records of taxpayers and employers in East Jerusalem to the PA's tax authorities.

One of the most important decisions made by the two sides was to keep the meeting and its decisions secret for fear that publicity would turn them into a political document which might affect the status of the Arabs of East Jerusalem at a time when the Israeli side is seeking to defer such a debate to the permanent stage.

At the request of the Arabs, the value added tax [VAT] records of the telephone service in Judaea and Samaria will be transferred from Israel's VAT authorities to the Civil Administration staff officer in charge. The Palestinian request came in the wake of a drop in VAT revenues from telephone services. Until the VAT records are handed over to the Civil Administration, Israel will transfer 80 percent of the VAT payments for telephone services to the PA and will retain the remaining 20 percent as a deposit until the issue is finally settled.

It should be noted out that rumors about such accords circulated in the past, but those were denied by the incumbent Israeli authorities. This is the first time that a document pertaining to those accords has been disclosed. The Oslo A agreement stipulates that an Arab from East Jerusalem earning his wages in Judaea and Samaria would pay taxes on his income to the PA. It seems that the decisions made in Cairo last month expand on the Oslo A agreement, and that residents of East Jerusalem will now pay taxes to the PA on any income earned.

In an advertisement published in the East Jerusalem press a few weeks ago the PA called on residents of East Jerusalem to send their tax payments to the PA's income tax offices.

In response, a spokesman for the coordinator [not further specified] said that the agreement about the preliminary transfer of five civil powers, signed in August 1994, stipulated that with the exception of Jewish settlements and military installations, any business revenues in Judaea and Samaria would be transferred to the PA. The meeting held in Cairo on 21 June elaborated upon a previous accord, whereby due for practical reasons and in order to make taxation more effective the income tax records of residents of East Jerusalem who own businesses in Judaea and Samaria would be handled directly by the PA's tax authorities without the mediation of the Civil Administration.

IDF, Police Request More Funds for Redeployment

TA1607062495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military sources say the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will request a sum of 950 million shekels to fund the redeployment in the West Bank. They say this includes an army withdrawal from six Palestinian towns, paving new bypass roads, and safeguarding Israeli towns near the border with the West Bank.

Police sources say the police will ask for an additional budget of 70 million shekels and another 1,000 policemen. They say although it was decided over the weekend to transfer 150 million shekels to the police, they needed more money to cope with the crime wave expected to accompany an IDF redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

Civil Revolt Termed 'Real, Immediate Threat'

TA1407180195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 14 Jul 95 pp 10, 11

[Article by Nadav Ha'etzni: "The Palpable Threat of Civil Disobedience"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Tuesday and Wednesday, four right wing forums debated the issue of civil disobedience against the government. Wednesday morning the leading halakic authorities of religious Zionism issued a far-reaching halakic ruling against participating in the evacuation of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] camps and against handing them over to the Palestinians. At the same time, a conference call of a group of university lecturers who have been active since the Oslo Accords ended in a decision "to spearhead the civil disobedience campaign against the government." That same evening, the plenum of the Forum for National Sobriety and Fortitude—made up of high ranking reserve officers—also reached a similar decision.

Tuesday evening, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip held a discussion that was cut short by the riots in Efrat but is scheduled to resume and reach decisions next Monday. The participants sought to adopt more radical measures in the struggle against the government. For the first time ever the council was going to discuss a proposal to prepare the ground for a massive refusal to obey an order. One way to achieve this end, for example, is by launching a wide-scale campaign to get reservists to sign a petition against any evacuation order.

For all these groups—except for the rabbis—this was the first time they had ever dealt with the issues of refusing an order and the limits of obedience. It was the second time for the rabbis, who determined more than a year ago that settlements must not be evacuated.

It is true that various right wing groups and individuals have dealt with the issue for a long time, and the issue of obedience is hovering in the air, but it seems that just this week, without any coordination or preplanning, the issue of civil disobedience has become the main issue for the right-wing establishment groups. This concept, whose full significance is still not clear to everybody and at which even the settlers are in principle repelled, is starting to be seen by many as the last measure left in the struggle against the government. Every passing day, as it becomes ever more clear that flattering polls, massive demonstrations, dramatic threats, and settlement activity are failing to stop Rabin and Peres, more and more people are being pushed to adopt the last resort—nonviolent civil disobedience. The events expected to take place in the next few months, especially the transfer of powers and land to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, promise that the events and threats made this week are only the first signs of a wide-scale phenomenon.

Wednesday morning several dozens 'Etzyon Bloc settlers—among them some of the moderate settlement leaders—were detained. Efrat Mayor Yinon Ahiman, who only half a year ago was accused by his colleagues of defeatism in the Tamar Hill affair, spearheaded the struggle against the police and was also detained. The detention of settlers does not constitute any novelty. The new element is included in the public remarks made by Uri Ari'el, chairman of the council, who was also detained in Efrat. Hitherto, Ari'el firmly opposed the idea of civil disobedience occasionally aired among the settlers. Last week, after he came out of the harsh meeting with Rabin, Ari'el indicated that he has changed his opinion when he stated that the issue of disobedience should be immediately raised.

As was to be expected, the rabbis' latest ruling against the evacuation of bases raised a public storm and could have far-reaching ramifications for many soldiers.

However, it still does not herald widespread civil insurrection, certainly not in the immediate term. There is a fundamental difference between declaring one's defiance of a specific order, such as the evacuation of a settlement or a military base, and the kind of civil disobedience led by Martin Luther King in the United States and Mahatma Gandhi in India.

Those declaring their refusal to obey evacuation orders still recognize the government's legitimacy to issue other instructions. Nevertheless, a hardcore group of activists is forming within the right-wing establishment. This group seeks to examine the possibility of rejecting the government's very legitimacy, which would have to be accompanied by various steps like withholding taxes, mailing back their military ID cards, stopping payment of their television licenses and so forth. These activists also demonstrate the mental readiness to pay the price, or—in other words—to be convicted and spend a long time behind bars. The centerpiece of this concept is that no democratic government can stand up to large numbers of ideological offenders filling its jails. Any government faced with such a phenomenon must capitulate, or hurriedly seek to renew its legitimacy through elections.

At the beginning of the week, far from the media headlines, the popular rebellion bandwagon began gathering steam. It was formulated in a six-page memorandum, distributed as a "discussion paper" among many right-wing decisionmakers. The draft was signed by 15 public figures, including the heads of Judaea and Samaria's established leadership. The paper even reached the prime minister's bureau. The paper was the result of rumors about the government's intention to give the Palestinians control over water resources and possession of most of the state lands in Judaea and Samaria, as well as to permit the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees. "There is room to consider," the draft proposes, "whether or not these actions on the part of the government constitute a crossing of the red lines, forcing us to start thinking more in the direction of a popular rebellion rather than about selective civil disobedience."

The document was also adopted as a discussion paper by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip but it is doubtful whether any sweeping decisions in its spirit will be taken over the next few days. What one can more likely expect are actions on the ground, some of them violent, and a mass petition against any evacuation orders. However, prior to the signing of the agreement with the Palestinians, and definitely in its aftermath, the memorandum is certain to become a very important document in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, other groups are hoisting the banner of civil disobedience. On 12 July, the "professors' circle" also joined the cause, as did two of its leaders—Professor Yisra'el Hanukoglo and Professor Eli Pollack. "We will not raise our hands against Jews," they said, "but aside from that we will do everything that falls within the framework of civil disobedience and anything we consider expedient, such as not paying our radio and television licenses and so forth."

The other bodies currently fomenting civil insurrection do not have to lay the groundwork for a new way of thinking, seeing as attorney Elyaqim Ha'etzni from Qiryat Arba', the head of the Action Committee for the Annulment of the Autonomy Plan, has been preaching rebellion for the past three years. Ha'etzni, himself a member of the Council of Jewish Settlements, formed the organization after failing to convince his colleagues to promote the ideas of nonviolent civil disobedience. It is doubtful if he would have to make such efforts today, in light of the recent statements from Jewish leaders in Judaea and Samaria. At Ha'etzni's prodding, the Action Committee adopted the international theories which have advocated nonviolent civil disobedience from the time of the Greek philosopher Socrates. These theories view civil disobedience as part of the legitimate rules of the democratic game. From numerous aspects, the Action Committee has adopted ideas of the left-wing "There Is a Limit" group, which exhorted soldiers to refuse to serve in the Lebanon War and in the territories.

The Action Committee claims that it does not draw its moral justification from rabbis' rulings or Halakic law but rather from "the accepted national principles of the State of Israel." Its leaders assert that the present government is undermining the basic principles of Zionism and has therefore lost its legitimacy. Just a few weeks ago, the Action Committee published a pamphlet entitled: "A Declaration of Principles and a Moral Code of Behavior for Times of National Moral Bankruptcy," and is now in the midst of several other activities. Among other things there is a mass campaign to get reserve soldiers to individually sign a declaration asserting their refusal to carry out any evacuation orders. Up till now, the Action Committee has only contemplated limited civil disobedience and set out various scenarios for disobeying orders. However, it never rejected the government's base of legitimacy or called for widespread rebellion. Last week, in the wake of the latest developments on the Palestinian track, the Action Committee's heads began examining the option of popular insurrection.

The rabbis' rulings are linked to the Action Committee's activities, but they are issued by other people in a purely independent fashion and from different ideological motives. The leaders of religious Zionism, like former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, joined the fray approximately 18 months ago when the possibility of evacuating settlements was first considered. They then issued the now famous ruling which declared that the evacuation of settlements would constitute a violation of halakic law. Rabbi Avraham Shapira and the late Rabbi Sha'ul Yisre'eli discuss these questions in a pamphlet entitled "The Beloved Land," which was published just one week ago. "The government must bear in mind that the IDF is the people's army and not a mercenary force under the government's mind like Herod's army," Rabbi Shapira proclaims. His ruling stipulates that since the Torah commands not to hand over territories or evacuate settlements, "the decision of an authorized secular government cannot bind a Jew when it contravenes religious law."

Wednesday's ruling "that there is a Torah ban on uprooting IDF camps and transferring the sites to Gentiles, since this contravenes a positive commandment and also endangers life and the existence of the state," was in accordance with that approach.

Another difference between the action command and the rabbis is that the latter have large numbers of troops in the regular army and the reserves who heed their rulings almost blindly. In fact, the initiative for the current ruling did not come from the rabbis themselves, but from the ranks, religious soldiers serving in the IDF who in recent months have inundated their mentors with calls for guidance.

"We face many requests," Rabbi Nahum Rabinovich, the rabbi of Ma'ale Adumim hesder yeshiva [which combines religious studies with military service] and one of the rabbis responsible for this week's ruling, said. "That is one of the issues the students are pondering now that the issues are becoming more defined. In the past, we discussed theoretical issues, but today the students see that there are other Jews pushing for the expulsion of

Jews from their land. Wherever I go I am asked about it, even by young supposedly nonreligious people. Many of them are concerned about the possibility that the army could turn against the people. I do not believe that the government will issue such an order and I do not believe that the soldiers will implement it. In my view, most of our soldiers are not prepared to be the storm troopers of the dictatorship of the ruling party."

Another body which has been preaching civil revolt for over two years is a small organization called Long Live the Hebrew Revolution, whose members first adopted the slogan of civil revolt. Its leaders, like Moti Qarpel and Hayim Nativ, have already spent time in a military jail for refusing to serve in the reserves. This week another soldier, a Tel Aviv resident called Yehoshu'a Rieger, refused to do reserve duty. He was given a 14-day prison stint after refusing to heed an order to serve in Bethlehem. In a letter to the prime minister, Rieger explained that he is not prepared "to cooperate with a foreign or Jewish regime that uproots Israel from its land." He also said that the government "is guilty of a historical treachery, and has therefore lost all moral authority."

The leaders of Long Live the Hebrew Revolution have so far differed from the others by not only preaching a more radical line, but also in the ideological sources they are weaned on. Contrary to the religious Zionist rabbis, who regard the state and the IDF as holy bodies which symbolize the start of the redemption, Long Live the Hebrew Revolution wants to fundamentally change social order in the state. They pine for a return of King David's monarchy and want to reinstate a halakic state and the Sanedrin. Their circle of supporters is very small, but they will meet and cooperate with all the other types of refusniks on the barricades of the civil revolt.

There is close cooperation between the various bodies, especially the professors committee, the officers, and the rabbis. Last Friday, their leaders sat with Rabbi Avraham Shapira to work out joint positions. Some members even participate simultaneously in the activities of several bodies. One example is reserves Colonel Moshe Leshem, a Combat Command head and a leading member of the senior IDF officers circle.

Professor Yisra'el Hanukoglo, chairman of the professors' club, is also a partner to Combat Command initiatives. Hanukoglo, a biochemical and molecular biological scientist, is a resident of Rishon Leziyyon and was until recently employed by the Weizmann Institute. In view of the political situation, he recently moved his laboratory to the Judaea and Samaria College in Ari'el. In fact, it can be said that Hanukogla no longer faces a dilemma over whether to support pinpointed or wide-ranging revolt. "Government decisions nullify the basic principles of the Jewish people in its state," he claims. "The entry of a terrorist army, the abandonment of Jewish lives, and the handing over of Eretz Yisra'el lands to Arabs through cooperation with the enemy, while basing itself on a tiny parliamentary majority, constitutes a black flag of illegality for the majority of the people. We, contrary to the Likud leaders, are not facing primaries and do not try to attract the center. Therefore, I am not afraid to say that the government has broken the laws and the basic principles of the People of Israel. If it broke them, then we can do the same and move on to the active stage of opposition to its policy. We will position ourselves at the head of the camp that declares civil revolt. We will soon convene a symposium on the subject and work out a plan of operations."

In view of the above, there is serious confusion among Likud Knesset members. Some, like 'Uzi Landau and Ron Nahman, have already expressed resolute positions in favor of refusing to heed orders. Others, like Me'ir Shitrit, have been firm in their opposition to refusing orders. There are those like Limor Livnat who would be prepared to join a call to refuse orders to uproot settlements, but even Livnat, who belongs to the militant wing of the party, has so far opposed refusing orders to evacuate military camps and large-scale civil revolt. She, like others, admits that she is confused.

But the Likud leaders could find themselves among those called upon to take a more resolute stand. The rabbis decision commits tens of thousands of religious soldiers in the regular army and the reserves. Additional forces have therefore joined the new phase of the struggle by the nonreligious public making civil revolt a real and immediate threat.

Rabin's 'Powerful' Military Secretary Profiled

TA1407141095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew on 14 July includes a 3,000-word article by No'omi Levitzky entitled "Yatom Force in Rabin's Bureau," profiling Major General Dani Yatom, Prime Minister Rabin's military secretary, who is described as "Yitzhaq Rabin's powerful military secretary and the prime minister's confidant."

Yatom, who is slated to be in charge of the military talks with Syria in Washington, is currently busy studying the material. "Somebody told Yatom the Americans were not exactly overjoyed when they heard he will be in charge of the talks with the Syrians. People said he was uncreative, a man without initiative, a greenhorn in the art of negotiations. Somebody else would have been offended, but Yatom only became more motivated."

The article goes on to describe Israel's demands that Syria allow it to position two ground early warning stations on the Golan Heights and that it redeploy its forces.

"The area to be discussed is referred to in the working papers as a special regime [last two words in English] area. The Golan Heights as well as an additional strip will be totally demilitarized. Syria will be permitted to bring in police forces to the area, but not army forces. Behind the demilitarized zone there will be thinned-out areas in which the Syrian Army will be positioned in a thinned-out deployment."

The article notes that a military secretary is usually a powerful figure, but "Yatom, a classical annexationist, has expanded his role and today deals with almost everything in Rabin's bureau. The special position he has created for himself gives him almost unprecedented power."

Yatom is especially attracted to the political sphere. Noticing that no one in Rabin's bureau was formally appointed to coordinate this sphere, "Yatom started to coordinate the staff work dealing with political issues. The prime minister's work papers started passing through him as though the military secretary had always been in charge of this issue."

The article points out that Yatom possesses most of the available information. "The chief of staff knows everything about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]; the Shin Bet head knows everything about the Shin Bet; the Mosad chief knows all there is to know about his organization, and the head of the nuclear reactor knows everything about his factory. Yatom knows all these secrets and then some. Now that Yatom's basket of goods also includes the political sphere, his way to Rabin's heart is open."

Yatom has been involved in all stages of the talks with Jordan and is now also deeply involved in the negotiations with the Palestinians. "In the Palestinian issue he is considered the right- wing player. He says he represents the army's position. He sees things differently than do the Foreign Ministry officials. Yatom participates in all of Rabin's meetings."

As a former commander of the Central Command, he keeps in touch with the settlers and was the one who initiated the meeting between Rabin and the settlement leaders last week. "Although the meeting was unsuccessful, Yatom believes the dialogue should continue."

Returning to the Syrian issue, the article says that Yatom's Syrian interlocutor is likely to be General 'Umar, head of Syrian military intelligence, and notes that Yatom has already met him in previous rounds. Noting that the last round of chiefs of staff talks between Shahaq and al-Shihabi was much less rigid and formal than the earlier one in which Israel was represented by Ehud Baraq, Yatom says this is how he envisages his own talks with the Syrians.

The article says that "Yatom's loyalty, discretion, and precision have won Rabin. This is his secret. Rabin gives him his complete confidence."

This confidence, the article goes on to note, has increased Yatom's power to the point that ministers such as Shetrit, Namir, Shohat, Tzaban, Shahal, Rubinstein, and even Peres all appeal to him for help on issues relating to their respective ministries.

"From Yatom's viewpoint this is an ideal situation. Some time ago, asked whether he always must be in control, Yatom answered in the affirmative: I feel better when things under my responsibility do not slip between my fingers. Asked who decides what are his responsibilities, Yatom answered without flinching: I decide."

Arab-Israeli Businessmen Discuss Trade in Amman

King Receives Delegation

JN1907204295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordanian and Palestinian-Israeli businessmen meeting in Amman today discussed ways to reestablish trade links. The two sides began their meeting yesterday hoping to define areas of cooperation for the first time in over half a century.

The Palestinian businessmen were received by his majesty the king during the day. The king said during the meeting that what has been achieved on the path of peace can be a cornerstone in efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. The king said the world is currently witnessing very difficult conditions in some regions and cited Bosnia as one of the spots facing great disaster. But, on the other hand, the king said there were other encouraging and promising signs, adding that Jordan is working to deepen its democracy and achieve justice and respect of human rights.

Last night, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan told the businessmen that their meeting was a crowning of the historic stance of Jordan, which has maintained close and deep ties with the Palestinians. The crown prince hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the businessmen shortly after they had ended their first working session. The crown prince said Israeli Arabs have symbolized the true spirit of tolerance and coexistence, and thus they can be the bridge that will link the past, the present, and the future.

Al-Kabariti Addresses Delegation

JN1907191295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Beatrix Immenkamp, "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti Tuesday urged Jordanian and Palestinian-Israeli businessmen to join forces to help build a better future for generations to come.

Addressing the opening of the first executive meeting between Jordanian and Palestinian-Israeli businessmen, Mr. al-Kabariti, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who welcomed the guests later in the evening, hoped that peace in the region would provide the right atmosphere for investment.

"We are happy to have you here. We see in you a bright picture of steadfastness, a symbol of true Arabism, a source of inspiration to all of those who look towards the futue without fear," he said "Your experience and your good reputation make you one of the most important pillars of peace."

Mr. al-Kabariti said that Jordan is looking forward to private sector participation in the process of construction, development and enhancement of relations.

"This will reflect positively on all citizens if joint ventures between the two parties are achieved," he said.

The executive Chairman of the Hashemite Association, Ma'an Zabian, delivered an emotional speech on the occasion of the first meeting of Jordanians and Palestinian-Israelis who had had no contact for almost 50 years.

"From 21 cities and villages, the delegation has come to reply to a call by the Crown Prince who strove immediately after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty for the renewal of contacts... between parents and parents... family and family... brother and brother," Mr. Zabian said.

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nazareth and head of the delegation, Sami Shahin, expressed his appreciation for the Jordanian leadership's support and encouragement to Palestinian-Israelis.

"We saw in Jordan a steadfast country that gives due attention to the interests of its citizens and the whole Arab Nation," he said. "The peace treaty with Israel secured the rights of Jordan and Jordanians and ensured justice, peace and stability without overlooking the interests of other Arab peoples in general and the Palestinian people in particular."

In the words of Mr. Zabian, Jordanians and Palestinian-Israelis are ideally suited to enter business relations. "First of all, we are neighbours. Secondly, we come mostly from the same tradition, which means that we have the same market, the same outlook towards everything. The (Palestinian-Israelis) have some experience, they are a market; we (in Jordan) have the capabilities to cooperate, we have inexpensive labour. Therefore, I believe that we can do a lot with each other," Mr. Zabian said.

During the three-day meeting, more than 150 Palestinian-Israeli businessmen as well as a similar number of Jordanian counterparts are expected to deliberate over ways to re-establish economic links between the two sides. Mr. Shahin told the JORDAN TIMES that the main aim of the visit to Jordan is for Palestinian-Israeli businessmen to meet their Jordanian counterparts, a meeting which he sees as the opening of a new road from which many things can develop.

On the subject of remaining obstacles to free trade between the countries, both Mr. Zabian and Mr. Shahin expressed hope that the governments of Jordan and Israel would make every effort to eliminate them as soon as possible. "The obstacles come from 50 years of not having any relations, so its just moving from hostility to cooperation—it will take time," Mr. Zabian explained.

Agreement Reached on Joint Projects

JN2007084795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Beatrix Immenkamp, "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Palestinian-Israeli businessmen and their Jordanian counterparts, who were received Wednesday by His Majesty King Husayn agreed to set joint projects in Jordan, organisers of the meeting said.

"After the first day of meetings between the businessmen, joint projects for production in Jordan emerged in the fields of textiles and agriculture," Mr. Ma'an Zabian, the executive chairman of the Hashemite Association, the organiser of the conference, told the Jordan Times. He, however, did not provide any details.

During a meeting with the Palestinian-Israeli delegation, King Husayn expressed hope that what had been achieved on the road to peace would serve as a cornerstone for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"We seek peace that will enable the coming generations to live in security and in a climate of stability and tranquility, peace that would bring about a real change in the region which is the cradle of religions," the king said at a meeting with the businessmen at the Royal Court, which was also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim and other officials.

In welcoming the delegation, the King said he took pride in their steadfastness, adding "all true Arabs look with respect and appreciation to the Palestinian people and take pride in their steadfastness and their adherence to their national soil."

The businessmen are attending a three-day executive meeting bringing together representatives of the Jordanian and the Palestinian-Israeli business community with the aim of finding ways to reestablish economic links between the two sides.

Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu al-Raghib told the delegation that "Jordan will not spare any effort in forwarding help and support and opening the doors to all those who work for the benefit and prosperity of people."

Mr. Abu al-Raghib told the businessmen that "the trade agreement with Israel will provide a great opportunity for you (Palestinian-Israelis) and for us (Jordanians) to extend bridges of cooperation in the sphere of commercial exchange. We want you to play a role in activating this agreement and supporting it through the expertise you have acquired through working as part of the Israeli commercial system."

After the first day of meetings between the two delegations, Mr. Zabian said that the response on both sides was excellent.

According to Mr. Zabian, more than fifty per cent of the three hundred participants had said that they had already established contacts. Cooperation between the two sides will focus on three areas: the export of Jordanian products to Israel, and production of goods in Jordan to Israeli specifications for the Israeli market or for export to other countries through established Israeli trade links and with the help of Israeli technology and know-how.

Mr. Zabian told the JORDAN TIMES that businessmen from the two sides were well aware of the strong points of their counterparts; while Jordan can provide inexpensive labour and production costs, Palestinian-Israelis have an advantage in technology and marketing strategies.

Mr. Zabian stressed that he did not have the slightest fear that Palestinian-Israeli businessmen would become a bridge for Israeli goods to flood the Jordanian market, without a reciprocal flow of Jordanian goods to Israel. He said that most of the businessmen who had come from Israel were importers, and that there were immediate plans to import Jordanian sweets, other foodstuffs and detergents to Israel, all of which were much cheaper in Jordan.

Mr. Zabian predicted that the products which would find the easiest entry into the Israeli market would be labour-intensive products, which have a distinct price advantage over similar goods produced in Israel as a result of lower labour costs in Jordan.

Parliament Briefed on UN Peacekeeping, Saudi Ties

JN1907143195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—The government Tuesday [18 July] briefed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament on the recent developments in the Jordanian-Saudi Relations, the position of the Jordanian unit in the U.N. peace keeping force in former Yugoslavia and the political situation in the Middle East.

The briefing was presented by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in the presence of the House's Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur.

Following the meeting, committee Chairman 'Abdallah al-Nusur told reporters that the prime minister briefed the committee members on Jordanian precautionary measures in the face of any emergency which the Jordanian unit of the U.N. peacekeeping force could face, noting that the government was maintaining contacts with European nations to guarantee the safety of the Jordanian unit.

The prime minister stressed that the Jordanian unit is in no danger because it is located in Croatia, far from the scene of current military operations, adding that the minute this unit faces danger, precautionary measures will be taken to ensure the safety of its members and their return home, according to Dr. al-Nusur. Referring to the foreign minister's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Dr. al-Nusur said the committee has been briefed on the outcome of that visit and the minister's talks with Saudi Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs. The foreign minister reviewed with the Saudi officials Jordanian-Saudi officials Jordanian-Saudi relations and steps that should be taken to bolster bilateral ties and to restore normal relations between the two countries, according to Dr. al-Nusur.

He added that Saudi Arabia plans to name an ambassador to Jordan soon and reopen Saudi markets for Jordanian products and facilitate the Jordanian people's travel to, and residence in Saudi Arabia.

Apart from these two issues, the committee was briefed on the latest developments between Egypt and Sudan, noting that the Jordanian government was in touch with the two governments to defuse the dispute, according to Dr. al-Nusur.

In reply to question about Jordanian relations with Gulf states, Dr. al-Nusur said that these relations were progressing and improving gradually, noting that relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are expected to improve "especially as Jordan strives to maintain the strongest possible ties with all Arab states and highly values the UAE's assistance to the Kingdom."

As to Kuwait, Dr. al-Nusur said that Jordanians harbour brotherly feelings towards is people and hope that the two countries will transcend the events of the past and work for a better future.

Referring to Iraq, Dr. al-Nusur said that the committee is deeply concerned over Iraqi people's conditions and calls for an end to their suffering.

Officials Comment on Labor Strike, Demonstrations

Interior Minister al-Murr

NC1907160995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Statement by Interior Minister Michel al-Murr in Beirut on 19 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Central Security Council [CSC] met to assess today's events. Military and security leaders also met and we reviewed what happened in Lebanon. These are the facts, not what was erroneously reported by the media: There were no demonstrations in the north, al-Biqa', al-Nabatiyah Governorate, and Kasrawan, al-Matn al-Shamali, al-Matn al-Junubi, 'Alayh, and al-Shuf in Jabal Lubnan Governorate. There were no demonstrations in these areas. No one responded to the calls for demonstrations.

I will make a detailed statement later about what happened in Beirut and Sidon. [passage omitted]

The CSC remains in open session. The deployment of the Army and security forces will continue, though not extensively. The CSC will meet if there are any new developments and the military and security commands are ready to continue implementing the cabinet decision.

I will now read a statement. I thank the political leaders and especially the citizens who ignored the calls to demonstrate. This showed appreciation for the national circumstances that have compelled the cabinet to ban assemblies and demonstrations in all the Lebanese areas. I also thank them for complying with the measures taken by the Army, the internal security forces, and the public security forces. These services, with the support of the fraternal Syrian Arab forces, were able to implement the executive authority's decision that avoided upsetting security and stability, particularly as Lebanon is going through a critical stage that requires vigilance, a feeling of responsibility, and the rallying of all citizens to foil the schemes of those harmed by the peace and reconstruction process. [passage omitted]

What happened in Sidon was due to attempts by certain suspicious elements, some of whom have been detained and identified. I will not announce their identities now because the judicial authority will do so, and you will then know why we call them suspicious. The suspicious elements infiltrated the ranks of those who assembled in front of party offices and tried to stage a demonstration, thus challenging the executive authority's decision, and which [words indistinct]. These elements harassed the internal security forces that were maintaining the security of Sidon. These elements stoned the security forces, beat them, and burned a Jeep Cherokee that belonged to the internal security forces. This forced the security forces to shoot into the air to disperse the demonstrators and arrest them. The detainees are being interrogated by the appropriate judicial office on suspicion of involvement in attacking the State's security, particularly as several internal security force members were injured, namely Lieutenant 'Ali Barakat, Chief Warrant Officer Sami [word indistinct], Warrant Officer Sharbil Khalil, and police officer Muhammad Thabit.

Contrary to media reports, the security forces did not fire at the demonstrators and no civilians were injured when the security forces shot into the air to disperse the demonstrators and to defend themselves against the stoning. I am surprised by one television station's deliberate incitement. It carried false reports aimed at inciting public opinion against the security forces, which are defending the citizens' security. It persisted with this incitement when it discussed demonstrations in al-Nabatiyah, which did not happen in the first place. It also claimed that many citizens were arrested; this is false. There were no demonstrations and no arrests. As to what happened in Sidon, this station fabricated stories.

Beirut complied with the security forces measures. There were no reports of incidents, with the exception of the limited assembly in Shaykh Bisharah al-Khuri Square. The journalists who were there know that there were about 100 citizens and 100 journalists. Those who were detained by the security forces for interrogation would not have been detained if they not tried to harass these forces while they were carrying out the ban on assemblies and demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri

NC1907200495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, the Council of Ministers discussed at length today's strike in Lebanon. The Council of Ministers concurred on the need to continue the dialogue with all Lebanese parties to find solutions to social problems and create job opportunities. This was stated by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at a news conference he held at the end of the cabinet meeting. He noted that he asked the economy minister to make efforts to control prices and protect consumers.

Regarding transportation, al-Hariri said the competent minister submitted a plan that we hope to discuss next week. Al-Hariri said there is a need to pay more attention to social issues because the people have many needs.

Al-Hariri said the strike was unjustified, noting that the executive authority has the right to allow or ban demonstrations and strikes. He pointed out that the government's ban on demonstrations is still valid. He said it is up to the people to decide to strike.

Al-Hariri stressed that the government will not retreat from its decision to raise gasoline prices, adding that the General Labor Federation knows this. He urged a sober discussion of all issues through objective and constructive dialogue.

Answering a question on the results of today's strike, al-Hariri said: We do not consider either party the winner or loser.

Al-Hariri noted security reports on the detention of Palestinians who violated security. He also noted inciteful attempts by foreign parties on the Lebanese but did not identify the parties.

Hizballah Leader Nasrallah

NC2007070695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Speech by Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah during a celebration by the Jihad al-Bina' Society on 20 July; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] General strikes and demonstrations are a form of popular expression telling the authority and the world: We in Lebanon are hungry. Demonstrations may not feed people but they say: We are hungry. Strikes will not feed people. Some people cannot eat if they do not work for a single day. Strikes tell the authority: We are hungry. Why does this authority, which, through its officials, parties, and loyals, claims to represent the popular majority, fear popular demonstrations? If it says the popular majority is loyal to it and to its pillars and parties, let it leave the minority to expose itself on the streets. But it is afraid, because it deceives itself and its people over this.

This afternoon we watched some television stations loyal to the authority. They said the strike was a partial one and that demonstrations were limited; some 200 people here, 150 or 300 there. These stations did not mention the army, the security forces, the security organs, the checkpoints, roadblocks, the telephone calls round the clock, the terrorism and pressure, and the threats to fire at demonstrators. The television stations that are loyal to the authority and its figures do not mention these things.

Imagine, my brothers, the levels we have reached. [sentence indistinct] These people were not demonstrating against the negotiations or the people; they will not ruin negotiations with Israel. They are not demonstrating against America so that Schlicher can protest to the prime minister. They are merely Lebanese who want to say: We are starving.

Lebanon observed a state of emergency today, not a general day of security. All the soldiers, weapons, and security forces were on the street. Who were they out to confront? The people.

We have reached a stage where you cannot even say: I am hungry. You cannot communicate this effectively. If someone says at a ceremony or in a speech in Beirut that he is hungry, people in the north will not hear him. No authority, nobody in the world, can turn their back on someone who does that in the form of a strike or demonstration. Going on strike, demonstrating, and expressing views freely are the simplest forms of expression in any democratic country.

I believe the Lebanese are required to demonstrate to demand the amendment of the Constitution to declare Lebanon a dictatorship, an oppressive and police state. Let them not deceive us by saying that Lebanon is a parliamentary, democratic, or I do not know what other kind of state.

'Arafat Said To Incite Palestinians During Strike

NC2007074395 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The people who assaulted the internal security forces in Sidon [during the strike on 19 July] were reportedly Palestinians. Messages said to have been sent by 'Arafat to his loyals in the Palestinian camps in Sidon, calling on them to promote the demonstrations against the Lebanese Government and encouraging them to burn tires and shout antigovernment slogans, have been intercepted.

Al-Asad Illness Viewed as Reason for Halting Talks

TA1907174995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President al-Asad was taken ill recently. Knowledgeable sources told our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari that he cut down on his work hours and reduced the number of visitors who see him.

Damascus officials claim that he is only suffering back pains, but it has become apparent that al-Asad's decision to refuse to resume the officers' talks in Washington surprised his closest advisers, and some attributed this decision to his pain and physical condition.

Official Questions Israel's Approach to Talks

MM1807134095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Would Accept Any U.S. Peace Proposals and Accuses Israel of Drowning Talks in Details"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus — Damascus yesterday was the scene of Syrian-Russian talks on the situation in the Middle East, especially the mission of the U.S. envoy to the region. Syria said yesterday that Israel wasted a good opportunity for peace when it drowned the military talks in details and particulars pertaining to the security arrangements, and that has detached peace from its main line. Syria emphasized its readiness to accept any U.S. proposals to promote understanding between Syria and Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday held talks in Damascus with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk. [passage omitted]

A Syrian official has stated that Israel's attempts to blame Syria for the crisis in the military negotiations are ridiculous and would not convince anyone. He said that Israel's insistence on the colonialist security concepts and its backing down from the agreement on equal and balanced security arrangements between the two sides increased the doubts about Israel's seriousness and called into question its desire to establish peace.

The official said that Rabin's government has made a point of dividing the security arrangements into many parts, flooding each part with details which often bore no relationship to the other parts, and it became clear that Israel's fragmentation of the security element and other peace elements was meant to keep the situation in flux, empty the peace process of its substance, and drown the negotiations in endless labyrinths.

The Syrian official said that Syria provided peace opportunities and clearly declared that the security arrangements must be equal and that there should be no Israeli presence left in the Golan after the complete withdrawal because such a presence, in whatever form, would be a continuous provocation to the Syrian people and a sign of continuing Israeli aggression, and it would be a source of tension not an element of security and stability.

The Syrian official called on Israel to shed its illusions about the possibility of Syria accepting a partial withdrawal or security arrangements that would undermine its sovereignty and national and pan-Arab security. He said that Syria was willing to accept any U.S. proposals aimed at promoting understanding between Syria and Israel if such proposals maintain the fundamental principles in Syria's peace requirements. [passage omitted]

Press Holds Israel Responsible for Stalled Talks

JN2007065095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Return to Peace Talks and the Required Position," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is true that the peace process is experiencing several difficulties and woes due to the intransigent Israeli positions. It is also true that the experts' meetings have been postponed until the ambassadors' talks reach an agreement that would render the experts' meetings necessary. This is necessary to remove the obstacles created by Israel when it fabricated a crisis on the issue of establishing ground early warning stations. The establishment of such stations is unacceptable to Syria, because it would undermine Syrian sovereignty and confirm Israeli intentions regarding the perpetuation of its occupation of parts of the Golan. Moreover, the establishment of such stations would enable Israel to maintain its espionage activities against Syria and promote a climate of war rather than peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: All the above is true. Nonetheless, what is also true is that Israel, which is inclined to creating difficulties, has hastened to speak of tough difficulties standing in the way of peace and held Syria responsible for this.

The paper asserts that Syria has provided ample evidence of the credibility of its positions, and of its commitment to the cause of peace, which it now views as a strategic option. Moreover, Syria is acting in line with the wishes of the international community. It still sees a need for the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the spirit of the U.S. initiative, which is grounded in the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Syria has spared no effort to render the peace process a success to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace that would ensure security and stability in the region. There is still an opportunity to promote the peace process at a fast pace if Israel shows good faith, and if it matches its words with deeds. The two ambassadors still have the opportunity to cope with all the difficulties that surfaced during the talks held between the two chiefs of staff and the tour of the region by U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross. If Israel abandons what it knows to be unacceptable to Syria, and subscribes to the principles of justice ['adl], equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], and balance [tawazun] in the security arrangements under consideration, and if it really makes up its mind on peace with Syria, and consequently with Lebanon, then the two ambassadors can pave the way for an advanced phase of future talks.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: If we are to analyze the Israeli position, we will find that Israel has not thus far endorsed just and comprehensive peace and its requirements. That is why we see signs of confusion when Israel addresses the peace process and expresses a desire to achieve peace while it makes its position clear regarding its desire to retain its control of territory and impose its hegemony, which we will never accept. These Israeli positions have created difficulties for the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Thus far, the Israeli rulers have not subscribed to the components of peace, as provided for in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Likewise, they have not endorsed withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, which is a basic prerequisite for the success of the peace process. Syria, through great leader His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, has declared that it accepts full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. Nonetheless, Israel has failed to respond favorably to this Syrian position. It has persisted with its blackmail, evasion, and deception to misrepresent facts and delude people over its true positions, which are lacking in seriousness and firmness with regard to the basics of the peace process. Consequently, Israel is fully responsible for the existing delay in the peace talks, and also for the repercussions of this on the future of the regional peace process.

The paper concludes by saying: The Israeli rulers have not thus far abandoned their expansionist objectives, nor have they disavowed their familiar tactics. This explains the failure to make progress on the Syrian track of negotiations.

Radio Views Talks Resuming at Ambassadorial Level

JN1907160395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israel tried to create a clamor following the tour of U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross. It did its best to hold Syria responsible for the stumbling negotiations. It also hinted that there were differences between Syria and the U.S. Administration.

After this Israeli clamor, it was agreed to resume the Syrian-Israeli talks at the level of ambassadors with U.S. participation. This agreement has once again opened the door to the resumption of negotiations based on the framework of understanding which Israel tried to evade.

Both the U.S. Administration and Israel know that Syria has not breached any agreement. Syria was simply eager to achieve agreed results which can serve as a prelude to the resumption of procedural and detailed talks at the level of experts.

In other words, the resumption of talks at ambassadorial level means returning the talks to their framework in order to search for formulas designed to fill the gaps with a spirit of eagerness to achieve tangible progress in the peace process and give it new momentum. Naturally, this can be realized if the Israeli intentions are true and if Israel is ready to pursue peace in a decisive way that will put an end to maneuvering.

Israel knows well that Syria decided to pursue peace and considered peace as a strategic option based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. Syria made this decision, acted accordingly, and honestly responded to the international peace efforts in general and to the U.S. peace efforts in particular. Meanwhile, Syria adheres to regaining all its territory as well as its national and pan-Arab rights.

Among the most important requirements of peace is returning both the territories and rights to their owners. Syria has truly confirmed that it deals seriously with the efforts aimed to promote the peace process. It is also true to its commitments, and has always kept its word, based on the terms of reference of the peace process. These terms are the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

However, Syria frequently warned against the Israeli maneuvering and actually explained the nature of the obstacles which the Israeli side is creating to impede any real progress. This is especially true with regard to Israel's evasion of the requirements of peace and its failure to give a final answer that can lead to an agreement on any point under discussion. Israel keeps all points unresolved and hinders a real progress.

The recent data obtained since the meeting of the two chiefs of staff has confirmed the credibility of the cautious Syrian optimism after reaching the understanding on security arrangements.

Israel insisted on tampering with the sequence of priorities. It thus clung to a point which Syria constantly rejected with regard to setting up a ground early-warning station. This station is designed to justify the continuation of occupation or one of its symbols or to be used as a means of spying and maintaining the hints at waging war. This has rendered the experts' technical talks worthless because Israel says one thing and does something else, and it also proposes one thing and negotiates another. Moreover, Israel pretends something and behaves to the contrary.

Syria, which is true to all its commitments and which agreed to send its chief of staff to the Washington talks, is interested in founding the complementary meetings at the level of experts on real results agreed by both parties. Otherwise, meetings will be like moving in a vicious circle, which is unacceptable to Syria.

Syria wants to promote the peace process and not to negotiate for the sake of negotiaing. Within this context, Syria is interested in the U.S. cosponsor achieving progress in the ambassadorial negotiations as a prelude to resuming the meetings of experts.

In fact, the peace process is still obstructed by the maneuvering Israeli mentality which creates obstacles and levels blame and accusations at others. The U.S. cosponser should learn a lesson from the announcement on resuming talks at ambassadorial level. This cosponsor is making persistent efforts to achieve tangible progress and work out a mechanism which will be linked to real results and not to Israel's propagandistic delusions.

The peace process is now facing a crucial and sensitive turning point. It cannot surmount the obstacles without Israel making a decision in favor of peace and without it being ready for all the requirements of peace. These requirements are led by full withdrawal and by equal [mutasawiyah], parallel [mutawaziyah], and balanced [mutawazinah] security arrangements which will guarantee the sovereignty of all parties and safeguard their prestige under peace. Peace remains the greatest and basic guarantee of the security and interests of all in the region and the world.

Editorial: Security Arrangement Not Alternative

*JN1907150495 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
13 Jul 95 p 1*

[Editorial by Chief Editor Dr. Turki Saqr: "Security Arrangements Are Not Alternative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, has returned to Damascus where President Hafiz al-Asad received him and where he held talks at the Foreign Ministry. U.S. officials announced the visit following the talks which were held in Washington at the U.S. initiative, under its sponsorship, and with its participation. A Syrian military delegation, led by the chief of staff, took part in these talks.

Official U.S. sources noted that this tour by Ross will be devoted to preparing new meetings in Washington on the military level to continue the discussion of the topics which were discussed in the Washington meeting and which was devoted to discussing the security arrangements on the Syrian track. It is known that the Washington meeting came following the U.S. declaration that an agreement has been reached on the understandings or what was termed agreement on concepts concerning the security arrangements.

Observers believe that issues related to the security arrangements have been given great importance in U.S, Israeli, and western media, and have been depicted as if they constitute the solution, settlement, and even peace.

Despite media exaggeration regarding security matters, nobody in the U.S. and Israeli sides could say that an agreement has been reached on all the issues raised in the parcel of security arrangements. All that was said in the statements was that the talks were serious, the atmosphere was objective, and that each party has presented its views.

In fact, Ross' current talks are no more than preparing the atmosphere for following up the talks on security arrangements, preventing any halt to talks on this topic, and presenting each side's views to maintain its security under the umbrella of peace, if it is established.

No one doubts the importance of reaching an agreement on the security arrangements, especially since such an agreement would facilitate discussion of other topics listed on the agenda of talks on the Syrian track, and remove one of the obstacles on the road of this track. However, exaggerating the importance of security arrangements is wrong, just as it is also wrong to play down their importance. Security arrangements constitute one part of a host of parts which make up the peaceful settlement and which lead to the achievement of the goal sought by the peace process; the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Syria has cooperated with the United States in intensifying discussion on the issue of security arrangements, something which demonstrates Syria's seriousness about advancing the peace process, and its good intentions and sincere approach toward peace, taking into consideration that it is a Syrian strategy.

Syria's cooperation in the issue of the security arrangements, however, does not mean that Syria is ignoring the other elements in the peace process or is waiving the peace requirements, which it cannot abandon if peace is to be genuine, viable, and durable.

I can reveal that security arrangements alone do not make peace and do not end differences over several basic issues, which are still waiting in line. Furthermore, the security arrangements must apply on certain lines on the ground and not in a vacuum. These lines are those of 4 June 1967 and Israel must pledge to return to these lines since everything, including the future of the peace process, hinges on this Israeli commitment. Syria would not accept the consequences of war to remain in the name of peace. Nor can it cede its right to exercise all dimensions of its sovereignty and independence under the excuse of confidence-building measures or accept a delay in troops withdrawal from the occupied areas under any excuse.

We say once again that Syria does not accept the so-called test of intentions or similar terms. There are objective military assessments that can be accepted by experts and these cannot be influenced by a certain party's desire to exercise blackmail. He who occupied the others' land, continued his occupation, and tried to annex it arbitrarily and unfairly in violation of the international legitimacy, is called upon to provide signs of good intentions, show a desire for peace, and stop defiance of, and indifference to the UN resolutions. The most important of these signs is to admit that the occupied land belongs to its owners, and to abide by withdrawal from it without any delay or procrastination, and without using the withdrawal issue to exercise blackmail in other issues.

To date, Israel has failed to clarify its proposals or remove the doubts about its seriousness. Every time a specific decision is expected and required, Israel resorts to dilution tactics and evasiveness, reviving an atmosphere of vagueness and uncertainty about its position. Therefore, Syria has always needed to reiterate its constants and declare its unequivocal interpretation of the meaning and dimensions of withdrawal. It also needed to keep stressing that every inch of land must be returned. Syria will continue its tireless reassertion of its position because it constitutes the basis of its acceptance of the peace initiative.

Syria's vision is very clear. It believes that a genuine, viable, and durable peace must respect peoples' rights, sovereignty, independence, and interests. Peoples will accept and embrace such a peace rather than reject it and resist it.

A peace that is in line with the international legitimacy and its principles and resolutions is in the interest of all parties. There will be no loser in such a peace. But peace that disregards peoples' interests and rights cannot be considered peace. Even if it is imposed under certain circumstances, such peace will not last irrespective of the powers standing behind it. Despite their importance, security arrangements cannot constitute an alternative to other peace requirements, without which no peace can be established or considered a complete peace. Foremost of these requirements is the full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Unless the Israeli rulers intend to move in this direction, the talks on security arrangements or any other topic will continue to revolve in a vicious circle without any tangible result in the interest of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses 'Conspiracies,' Urges Unity

LD1907233595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at a ceremony to mark 40th day after the death anniversary of Imam Hosayn in the Mohammadi Prayer Center, Kabul, on 19 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful,and the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Dear Brothers: Our people have come through harsh and painful days. The suffering and innocent people of our country have faced many difficulties and problems. Our nation has fulfilled its Islamic mission with enthusiasm and fervor, fought on the bloody fronts, and established an Islamic state at the cost of the blood of our martyrs. However, after the establishment of the Islamic state, impure hands, greedy powers, and the enemies of Islam did not give our people a chance to enjoy the victory of their jihad in a safe, secure, and calm climate. The fighting which took place after the establishment of the Islamic state, was not fighting among tribes and factions, or religious fighting, or even fighting among the various groups. It was not a domestic conflict or a conflict within our nation itself. Unfortunately, our nation was dragged into the fighting and fratricide as a result of a number of deceived elements and elements affiliated with foreign conspiracies, international conspiracies, and conspiracies against our country from abroad. Although we have come through difficult days, we are grateful to Almighty God that today, the conspirators faced defeat in Kabul City. Despite the painful destruction that we witness everywhere, including the western districts of Kabul and in Kart-e Sakhi [area inhabited by Shias], we are grateful to God that once again our devoted people, including Shia and Sunni, Pashtun, Hazara, Tajik, Turkmen, and other brother nations are gathered on this very important day in the history of Islam and Muslims, to mark the 40th day after the martyrdom of Imam Hosayn, may God be satisfied with him. [passage omitted]

I must stress the fact that the clashes and conflicts, which have occurred in the past or during the contemporary period in our country, have not been religious clashes and conflicts or tribal conflicts. At the beginning of reconstruction, all the people of our country should put strong stress on unity and equality. All the foreign conspiracies, the conspiracies which have been hatched in various forms and colors, stress on one point: How to create discord.

As you know, a series of new conspiracies are being hatched outside the borders of our country. What is the purpose of these conspiracies? There are people who want to mobilize Afghanistan's tribes once again and make them confront each other. They have made similar efforts in the past and failed. Concerning their latest plan regarding Abdol Wali's visit to Pakistan. A guest came to see us and described the plan. He said that he had asked Abdol Wali, who came to Peshawar with the help of the international conspiratorial powers, what was his plan and what did he want to do? His reply was that he wanted to invite the heads of each tribe and [words indistinct] want to form an army — then we will embark on an attack and take control of Kabul. We have proved ourselves in the past.

In reply to these comments our quest told him that he was making a mistake. You should know that you were not even a general or a politician and Afghanistan today is not the Afghanistan of the past. The Afghan nation cannot be used against itself as in the past. Today, all the tribes are mobilized in Jihad groups so that no clan can be counted as a single clan. The people are mobilized in Jihad groups in such a manner that even two brothers from the same tribe are registered in two different Jihad groups and fought the enemy on two fronts. Second, the period you have in mind has now passed and there are now organized forces in Afghanistan. If you want to deceive a number of people and drag them to the slaughter house, then you will be committing a crime.

Anyway, you can see the debt of the conspiracy. The elements with their old way of thinking, the method of thinking that was, once, in our country in the past and was not successful even then. But, they still want to embark on an attack against our own country and make our tribes and nationalities stand against each other. These are very impure aims that the foreigners wanted to test in our country at various stages to create bloody conflicts. We should all be aware of them and should not allow them to create discord among us once again. All Shia and Sunni should return to their homes in all the areas that were destroyed with full confidence and resume their lives as brothers. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Recent Fighting in Various Regions

HCC Captures Province Capital

LD1807154395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past two days, forces of the High Coordination Council [HCC] have continued cleaning-up operation in Badghis Province, and following the capture of Qala-e Naw town, the capital of the province, they are now making preparation to liberate Herat Province. A responsible source of the HCC told a reporter of Radio Message of Freedom that during the cleaning-up operation, several areas previously controlled by the coalition administration gunmen and a large quantity of their weapons have been captured by the HCC forces. The source added that the HCC forces have advanced 50 kilometers in Badghis Province. The HCC report says that the recent operation started in Fariab to foil the violations of Captain Esmail Khan's gunmen. Now the HCC air and ground forces are engaged, with high morale, to clear up Badghis Province of the coalition administration gunmen, and will extend their operations toward Herat Province.

Dozens of the coalition administration gunmen have been killed in the course of the operation and [words indistinct] been captured along with their weapons.

Islamic Army Captures Dostam Positions

LD1807190795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Limited clashes have taken place between the Islamic Army forces and the Dostam militia in Badghis Province. Refuting last night's BBC report, esteemed Mohammad Esmail, amir of the southwestern zone, said: The Dostam militia launched an offensive in Morghab district, where it suffered a heavy defeat as the result of the resistance of the Islamic Army forces and the mojahedin. The militiamen suffered several fatalities, and retreated. The amir of the southwestern zone said that the militia had made no advances during that offensive. Heavy fighting is continuing in Morghab district. The Islamic Army forces are pursuing the fleeing militiamen. Two nights ago the Dostam militiamen bombarded residential areas in Morghab, as a result of which five civilians were killed and a number of others wounded.

Armed forces sources have not reported heavy fighting in the northern provinces. According to the sources, the Islamic Army forces captured five positions of the Dostam militia in the area of Charchashma in Roi-Doab in a counteroffensive last night. During the operation, which lasted for seven hours, a number of militiamen were killed or injured, and the enemy's [word indistinct] light and heavy weapons were captured.

According to another report the mojahedin and Islamic Army forces have completely cleared the area of Panja Qaria in Dara-ye Suf, Samangan, of the dirt of the militia. During the fighting, which was mounted from three directions, dozens of militiamen were killed and a number of others were taken prisoner.

The mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces yesterday foiled an attack by the militia in Kohestanat district, Sar-e Pol province. During the militia's unsuccessful attack dozens of them were killed [words indistinct] and a number of others were taken prisoner. Their light and heavy weapons were also captured.

A report from Fariab province says that one of Dostam's commanders, together with his 100 men, joined the Islamic sovereignty in Almar district yesterday. Realizing the rightness of the Islamic state, Commander Khayrollah left the ranks of the militia and defected to the mojahedin of the 24th Division. The defectors are armed with 30 heavy and 70 light weapons.

Another report quoting security sources says that the so-called Taleban launched an attack on Islamic Army positions in the Sanglakh area of Maydanshar two nights ago. They faced the fire of the Islamic Army forces in the area, and the so-called Taleban militia were forced to retreat after suffering losses.

Observers are of the opinion that the new movements of the opponents of the Islamic state on various fronts are taking place at a time when Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN secretary general's special envoy, will be starting his new peace mission in Afghanistan. The unsuccessful attacks by the opponents can be interpreted as nothing but sabotage of the UN peace effort. The opponents embarked on similar movements during the previous peace missions of the UN special envoy. If we look into the matter, one element in the failure of Mahmoud Mestiri's previous missions was the fact that a blind eye was turned to the sabotage by the opponents of the state of the efforts of the Islamic state to restore peace and security. It is hoped that this time, taking advantage of past experience, the UN special envoy will identify the violating parties and thus succeed in enforcing a peace program in Afghanistan.

'Clashes' Erupt After Pakistan Talks

LD1807155095 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 18, IRNA — Eruption of war in two fronts in western Afghanistan is being closely watched by experts who follow the developments in the country.

The fightings, flared up after the National Islamic Movement forces advanced in Badghis Province Monday [17 July], have now escalated following Taleban forces' attack on Ismail Khan forces' position.

Clashes erupted in western Afghanistan following talks in Peshawar, Pakistan, between the two main opposition groups of Afghan government, Afghan sources said.

According to the sources, western Afghanistan is of strategic importance for the government and any unrest will pose serious dangers to the government.

The sources are of the view that the opposition groups intend to upset government's political balance through the clashes.

Rabbani has made certain political successes after a series of political maneuvers inside and outside the country.

On the other hand, certain analysts maintain that the opposition groups have embarked on the fightings simultaneous with the visit of Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the United Nations' secretary general, to prove that they can upset Afghanistan's politico-military balance.

Mestiri arrived in Kabul Tuesday and Afghan sources believe that there is links between the new round of clashes with government forces and the peace plan proposed by Rabbani, leader of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society].

The plan proposes formation of a provisional council comprised of representatives of all provinces before establishment of a popular government.

The Afghan sources said that the opposition forces intend to force government drop the control of at least four provinces of Badghis, Ghur, Farah and Nimruz.

Another peace plan earlier put forward by the Islamic party led by Hekmatyar also includes a similar proposal.

Apparently the United Nations and other Afghan groups are unanimous on establishment of a provisional council.

India

Rao Voices Concern Over Antarctic Resources

BK1607152295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has expressed concern over the exploitation of natural resources in Antarctica.

Addressing the members of the 14th Indian Antarctica Expedition in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said this exploitation must be stopped. He said India should not lag behind in scientific research studies in Antarctica. The prime minister also released the report of the 10th Antarctica scientific expedition on the occasion.

The 14th Antarctica expedition comprising 64 members, including 31 scientists and 33 logistic personnel, returned on the 29th of March this year. During the expedition, state-of-the-art instrument, called MM wave radio spectrometer, was made functional to measure the quantity of ozone in the atmosphere on a continuous basis. The data thus collected is expected to give information on the dynamics of the ozone hole phenomenon over the Antarctica.

Delhi States 'Nuclear Fuel Cycle' Capability

BK2007100795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is one of the few countries in the world to achieve comprehensive capability in the entire nuclear fuel cycle. This was stated in an official release in New Delhi. The release said that Indian engineers and scientists have achieved success in the design, construction and operation of nuclear reactors, nuclear fuel reprocessing, and waste management. The country has also achieved self-reliance in heavy water technology, reactor control systems, radiation monitoring, and radiation safety equipment. A variety of radio isotopes are produced indigenously in the research and power reactors and these are widely used in agriculture, industry, and medicine.

Reportage, Commentary on Kidnapped Western Tourists

'Sources:' Hostages Alive as of 18 Jul

BK1907115195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 19 Jul 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] New Delhi, July 19 (AFP) — Five Western tourists held by Muslim militants in Kashmir were alive as of late Tuesday [18 July], more than 24 hours after a second deadline set by their captors for killing them expired, sources close to the kidnappers said Wednesday.

The sources close to Al-Faran, the Muslim separatist organization behind the abductions in the northern Indian state, said the hostages were alive as of Tuesday evening, but there had been no contact with the militants since then.

They said the Al-Faran guerrillas holding the five Westerners had been in touch with members of their group in Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital, by radio Tuesday evening. "After that there is no message," the source said.

"When they contacted Srinagar it was raining heavily in the woods where they were," the source added. "The audio was not clear due to the rain and wind."

The source said waterproof clothes had been supplied to the five hostages — two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian — and that the militants and their captives were constantly on the move.

There has been no public statement from Al-Faran, the Jungle Warriors, since the separatist group announced Monday evening that the hostages could be killed "at any time now."

Al-Faran had set Monday evening as a deadline for the Indian authorities to release 21 top Muslim guerrillas from prison, failing which they would kill their captives.

A "crisis management group" of Kashmir government officials headed by a retired lieutenant general held a meeting here on Wednesday to discuss the hostage-taking, sources close to the state government said.

The sources said the Indian authorities were trying to re- establish contact with the Al-Faran militants using three local Kashmiris as go-betweens.

"The name of the game is contact," a top police officer said, "which we are trying to re-establish."

Indian officials have claimed previously to have been in "indirect contact" with the abductors, but the sources said communications broke down following Monday evening's threat to kill the hostages.

They said Al-Faran was apparently insisting on the release of all of the 21 imprisoned Muslim guerrillas on the group's list in exchange for the freedom of the tourists.

"If Al-Faran and the government show some flexibility this crisis will end soon," said the police officer speaking on condition he not be identified. [passage omitted]

Indian troops continued a search of the rugged mountains and forests around Pahalgam on Wednesday but drew a complete blank, police said.

Indian officials believe the tourists are being held high in the Himalayas by a group of militants from Afghanistan or Pakistani- controlled Kashmir.

A photo of the hostages released by Al-Faran last week showed them dressed in heavy winter clothes and surrounded by gun-toting guerrillas in Afghan garb. Three snow-capped mountain peaks could be seen in the background.

The Indian authorities believe Al-Faran may actually be the hardline group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which has a number of Afghans in its ranks and which kidnapped two Britons in the same area a year ago. They were released after 17 days.

The Harkat-ul-Ansar, or Movement of Friends, has denied any involvement in the latest kidnappings, (?however), and along with Kashmiri Muslim political and militant groups has condemned the abductions.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, the only Muslim- majority state in predominantly-Hindu India, since 1989 when Muslim militants stepped up their secessionist campaign.

India accuses Pakistan, which also lays claim to Kashmir, of arming and training Muslim militant groups, a charged denied by Islamabad.

Efforts Continue To Secure Release

BK2007043295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has continued with efforts to secure the safe release of five foreign tourists who were abducted by militants in the upper regions of Pahalgam on the 4th and 8th of this month.

The government's adviser Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani, and other senior officials are constantly reviewing the situation and coordinating efforts to ensure the safe release of tourists. the United States, UK, OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], Saudi Arabia and Amnesty International and even from militant outfits of Kashmir and All-Party Hurriyat Conference have also appealed to the abductors to release the tourists. The abductors have not so far responded to these appeals.

Meanwhile, all the eight members of a marriage party kidnapped by militants from Keshwar area of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir on the 11th of this month, were released yesterday. The militants had taken 10 members of the party hostage while it was on its way from Gundwara to Gundna in Kishrat. One member had managed to escape the next day while another was released by the captors earlier. It is understood that the captives were released as they were not capable of paying ransom of five lakh rupees reportedly demanded by the militants.

Preparations Made for 'Possible Swap'

BK2007062295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 20 Jul 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pahalgam, India, July 20 (AFP) — Indian officials prepared Thursday [20 July] for a possible swap to secure the release of five Western tourists abducted by Muslim militants in Kashmir, while troops pursued their hunt for them.

At least 10 of the 21 jailed rebels the kidnappers seek to exchange for their hostages have been brought to Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, from elsewhere in the country, official sources said.

The moved prisoners included Mushtaq Ahmed, a former chief of the pro-Pakistan Hizbullah militant group, and Sajjad Afghani of the Harkat-ul-Ansar, the sources told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

Ahmed is a Kashmiri and Afghani is an Afghan national, the sources said, adding that the 10 prisoners had been brought under heavy security from the northern cities of Sangrur, Jodhpur, Jammu and New Delhi.

Indian troops meanwhile continued to patrol the woods of this mountainous region in an attempt to track down the foreigners and their kidnappers, who are mainly believed to be mercenaries.

The Al-Faran group, which has claimed responsibility for the abductions, has sought the release of 21 jailed Muslim guerrillas. The group has made no public statement since the deadline on its threat to execute the five lapsed on Monday evening.

The Indian government has maintained a studied silence on the demand, but Muslim sources said New Delhi might not be averse to a one-to-one swap from the list of 21 supplied by the rebels.

Al-Faran is believed to be insisting on the release of all 21.

"We have found certain clues which I may not share at the moment as it will hamper our progress," said south Kashmir's police chief, Mohammed Amin Shah, who is camping here to supervise the massive search for the Westerners.

"We are hopeful that we will have manageable results in due course of time, " he added.

Shah, who was the main mediator when two Britons were snatched by Muslim militants here last year and freed unharmed after 17 days, said 12 police teams had been sent across Pahalgam to track down the Westerners.

"So far we have not achieved results but in due course we may achieve success," he said. "We are working at it. Our aim is to solve the case as soon as possible."

He did not say whether the police were still in indirect contact with Al-Faran, which Indian officials say could actually be a front for Harkat-ul-Ansar, which is known to have many Afghans in its ranks.

Police sources said detectives had been able to identify the trails the armed captors have used in the past few days while moving the hostages from one hideout to another.

One police officer said: "We know the militants are carrying hundreds of biscuit packets and dried fruit."

A photo of the hostages released by Al-Faran last week showed them dressed in heavy winter clothes and surrounded by gun-toting guerrillas in Afghan garb. Three snow-capped mountains could be seen in the background.

Indian soldiers have also stepped up patrols and set up bunkers along a winding road leading from Pahalgam to the snow-clad mountains of Anantnag, which scores of Hindus take in August for an annual pilgrimage.

Temporary army camps have been opened along the route while army experts are looking for land mines.

The Harkat-ul-Ansar has "banned" the pilgrimage to Amarnath to protest the alleged desecration of Islamic shrines in Kashmir by Indian troops, and ordered shops and hotels on the road to close down.

The Harkat had issued a similar ban last year but later lifted it.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in a bloody Muslim separatist drive raging in Kashmir since 1989.

Radio: No Breakthrough in Efforts

BK2007091295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Srinagar, there has so far been no breakthrough in the government's efforts to secure the safe release of the five foreign tourists. A team of senior officials headed by the governor's adviser, Lieutenant General Saklani, is monitoring the situation continuously. The kidnapped persons are apparently being held in some high-altitude area in Pahalgam region. The government is also taking the help of the local people. Meanwhile, the union civil supplies minister, Mr. Buta Singh, has reached Srinagar on a two-day visit. He will review the supply position and distribution arrangements of essential commodities in the state.

Daily Faults Government Response

BK1907092895 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 18 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Groping in the dark"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wave of abductions in Jammu & Kashmir [J&K] once again shows that whatever claims the State administration and the Union Government might make regarding the improvement in the situation, the grim reality is altogether different. Despite the heavy presence of the security forces in the Kashmir valley as well as other parts of the border State, the militants are quite active and are in a position to strike at will. Last year too, they had kidnapped two foreigners — one of them happened to be the son of a former New Delhi-based correspondent of a reputed British financial daily — and their release was secured after a lot of international pressure and prolonged uncertainty. The militants have this time as well succeeded in abducting locals as well as foreigners both in the Kashmir valley and the Doda district of Jammu region. And the five foreigners and 11 Indians still remain untraced while the authorities continue to grope in the dark.

Viewed against this backdrop, the confidence exuded by the J&K Governor, Gen (Retd) KV Krishna Rao, regarding prospects of elections in the State by the year-end is quite baffling. The External Affairs Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has in fact displayed greater optimism in this regard by saying that the much- awaited polls will be held before October. Yet, it remains unclear how the Centre as well as the State administration intend to go about meeting this self-imposed deadline. After the release of a few well-known militant leaders such as Mr Yasin Malik and Mr Shabir Shah from jail, it was expected of the Government that it would take adequate follow up measures. However, except for allowing them and other leaders of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference to meet the Pakistan envoy and representatives of other countries in the Capital, nothing much was done. Since the mass euphoria over the release of young militant leaders has considerably evaporated by now, it is doubtful if the Government can pick up the thread at this late stage.

The continuing trend of abductions also presents a Hobson's choice before the authorities. In the past several years, they have tried their best to promote tourism in the State, especially the Kashmir valley. The success achieved by them was officially presented as evidence that the State was returning to normalcy. It is this success which has made it possible for foreign tourists to once again visit the Valley, breathe its fresh air and appreciate its breathtaking beauty. Ironically, this has also provided the militants, always seeking international publicity, with soft targets. The Government can deal with such a situation only through tact, determination and a clear policy.

Iran

Daily Views U.S. Failure With Embargo 'Gamble'

NC2007105595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Final Nail Driven Into Clinton's Embargo Coffin"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When President Bill Clinton announced that he was going to impose a trade embargo on Iran beginning on June 6 many Iranians reacted coldly. They knew it wouldn't work.

Only some U.S. officials, particularly the Secretary of State Warren Christopher, congratulated themselves on the move and thought that Iran would be strangled and thus submit to their demands.

The Zionist circles in the United States and Israeli officials, overenthusiastic about the nasty move, were congratulating each other, dreaming of the collapse of the Islamic system in Iran.

From the very beginning Iranian officials said that the U.S. would be the loser in a gamble they themselves began. The White House officials, however, did not want to admit it. They pressured their allies to comply with Clinton's embargo.

Washington has yet to come out of the hibernation which followed the collapse of the bipolar international order. After the end of the Cold War era, many American politicians thought that the new world order would be a unipolar one providing them — as the only world superpower — an opportunity to impose their will on all members of international community.

Thus far, however, the course of events have proven that White House officials have been daydreaming. As President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani said in a recent interview with Cable News Network, it is high time for the U.S. to reassess its policy and attitude towards Iran.

Iran has laid down a reliable infrastructure for its development. It is willing to cooperate with other members of the international community, provided others respect its sovereignty, ideals and values. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the strongest country in its region. Naturally, cooperation with Tehran will lead to regional development, peace and stability.

The United States has shown that it is not committed to international rules and regulations. For instance, it has tried to blackmail Japan by violating rules set by the World Trade Organization. Iran is ready to join hands with all members of the international community in order to resist U.S. bullying.

Editorial Addresses OIC Role in Bosnian Crisis

NC2007111795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "OIC Has a Historic Mission"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the past three years the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], like several other organizations, has been issuing resolutions condemning Serb atrocities and aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As the largest Muslim organization, the OIC must realize that it has a historic responsibility vis-a-vis the plight of the Bosnian people.

The organization is going to hold an urgent meeting on the crisis in Bosnia. The member states should bear in mind that this meeting is distinct from all other meetings. The organization's record on Bosnia is not very bright because it has so far failed to meet the challenge of the aggressor Serbs who bluntly defy all international rules and norms.

One of the most important steps the OIC should take is to resort to any means possible to convince the UN to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. In the first instance, the lifting of the embargo would enable the Muslims to defend themselves against the Serbs.

Secondly, the OIC must insist on the formation of a Muslim peacekeeping force, since the UN peacekeeping force has proven to be impotent. How can a force which cannot defend itself defend others? The UN peacekeepers have lately been the preys of the Serb predators.

It is an established fact that the only way to withstand the aggression of the Serbs is to have recourse to force. It is also clear that NATO, the UN and Western nations are not sincere in protecting Bosnia-Herzegovina from Serb attacks. Indeed, through inaction, procrastination, and the arms embargo on Bosnia, NATO and the UN have paved the way for more Serb aggression on defenseless Muslims.

Thus, at this juncture, the OIC has a historic mission before it. If it fails to help lift the Bosnian arms embargo, if it fails to form a Muslim peacekeeping force, and if it fails to convince others to resort to force to rescue Srebrenica and other UN safe havens, future generations would never forgive it.

Velayati Departs for OIC Meeting in Geneva

LD2007135795 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, heading a high ranking political delegation left Tehran for Geneva Thursday [20 July] afternoon to take part in the meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group.

The meeting is held following a proposal by Iran in view of the highly sensitive conditions of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the disastrous situation of defenseless people of Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde cities which are under destructive attacks of Serbs.

The foreign ministers of the OIC Contact Group are to discuss practical ways for encountering the present situation of Bosnia and will adopt firm and immediate decisions in this respect.

On his way to Geneva, Velayati in a brief stop in Athens will meet with Bosnian and Greek foreign ministers to discuss ways of escalating Islamic-European joint efforts for ending Bosnian crisis in the framework of the third meeting of Iranian, Greek and Bosnian foreign ministers.

Following the escalation of Serb's attacks on areas which are declared as safe havens by the United Nations, the Iranian foreign ministry stepped up its efforts through Islamic countries, international and European organizations to find a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Russian Official Views Caspian Sea With Minister

LD1707213395 Tehran IRNA in English 1934 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi told visiting deputy minister of fuel and power engineering of Russia here Monday [17 July] that no investment would be wise on prospecting for oil in the Caspian Sea without first deciding on the legal regime of that sea. He said Iran welcomed improved cooperation between Iran and Russia in that area.

Va'ezi added that upon a scheduled visit to Tehran shortly of an official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations grounds would be paved for the creation of a joint economic commission of Iran and Russia.

The Russian official indicated that his talks with Iranian Oil Ministry officials touching on future cooperation for prospecting oil at the Caspian Sea had been very fruitful. He said that Iran and Russia enjoyed good ground for future cooperation also at the Persian Gulf and on the international scenes which they could realize with their mutual public sector support.

Azerbaijani Envoy Discusses Bilateral 'Obstacles'

NC1907055595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran met our deputy foreign minister for Europe and the United States yesterday and called for removing the obstacles to Tehran-Baku relations.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting the Azerbaijani ambassador refuted reports of a proposal to hand over the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan to Turkey.

During the meeting [Deputy Foreign Minister] Va'ezi stressed that better Tehran-Baku relations require Azerbaijan to remove the problems and obstacles.

Reportage, Views on Tajikistan Presidential Visit

President on Meeting Tajik Opposition

LD1907135095 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and a delegation from his country concluded their visit to Tehran Wednesday [19 July]. He was seen off at the airport by Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before his departure at the airport, the president of Tajikistan said his visit to Tehran had been very useful. He said a number of agreements in principle had been signed between him and responsible Iranian officials in various areas including one for establishing regular flights between Tehran and Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

He said during his stay here he and representatives of the opposition in Tajikistan had negotiated for a peaceful settlement of their differences which, he said, had led to the signing of a joint communique.

The president of Tajikistan indicated that both sides had agreed to settle differences with the involvement of their authorized representatives whose duty, he said, it would be also to decide on the date and venue of the next talks, and extension of the ceasefire now in effect in that country.

The Tajik president also appreciated the hospitality accorded him in Iran expressing hope that the two countries would get closer together in the near future. He also extended an invitation to the Iranian president to visit Dushanbe, which they agreed to be made at a mutually convenient future occasion.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani expressed happiness with the progress made at the talks between the Tajik delegation and representatives of the opposition in that country. He said every issue of contention between the two had been duly addressed at the communique signed in Tehran Wednesday.

President Rafsanjani said that the only obstacle on the way of closer ties between Iran and Tajikistan had been the internal strife in that country which, he hoped, would be for ever resolved as the result of their agreement in Tehran.

The Iranian president also expressed delight with the agreements entered into between Iran and Tajikistan, and commented that the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, would shortly visit Dushanbe within the context of the points agreed upon between the two countries.

He expressed hope that Iranian industrialists, manufacturers and businessmen would seek to get more deeply involved businesswise in Tajikistan, looking upon that country as their second home.

Rafsanjani Hails 'Agreed Blueprint'

LD1907143095 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday [19 July] expressed his pleasure with agreements arrived at here today between the president of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmanov and representatives of Tajik opposition.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said a communique which was an agreed blueprint for their commitment to negotiated settlement of their differences in the future was especially significant in light of its having been made without the involvement of an intermediary between the government and the opposition in Tajikistan.

He congratulated the government and people of Tajikistan for the breakthrough in their deadlocked relations saying the progress marked Wednesday a blessed day for the Muslim world and Iran. "We are," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "as happy with the communique as are the people of Tajikistan." He also expressed hope both sides would abide by their commitments in the communique.

Meanwhile, both the president of Tajikistan and representative of the opposition Sayed Abdullo Nuri here Wednesday voiced their happiness with the agreement, hoping that it would return peace to Tajikistan.

The two also appreciated Iran's efforts for bringing them to an eventual conciliation in the interest of peace in their country.

Tajik Minister Views Visit, Ties

NC2007104795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Dadkarim Heybatan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, Tajik Minister of Economy and Foreign Economic Affairs, Tukhtaboy Gafarov, said that the three-day official visit by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmanov, heading a top-ranking political, economic and cultural delegation, starting Monday [17 July], is for the finalization of important economic accords with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Gafarov stated that six months ago the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Economy functioned separately as government agencies. However, they have now been merged as a single agency. The Tajik economy minister pointed out that he arrived earlier to prepare the protocol to be signed by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He predicted that the two countries will participate in a wide variety of joint economic and business ventures.

Gafarov underlined that all exports from Iran and produce exports from Tajikistan have been defined in the new protocol by the Iranian Ministry of Commerce and Tajik Ministry for the final signatures.

The Tajik economy minister invited Iranian businessmen and industrialists to invest in the Republic of Tajikistan and jointly set up industries. The minister indicated that other countries such as South Korea, Italy and the United States have invested in different industries.

He asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to invest more, as the two countries share a common language, culture and religion. He hoped that the bilateral relations would yield higher cooperation between the two countries.

He indicated that two types of investment can be made in Tajikistan. Short-term investment based on the food industry which can turn a profit in a year. These industries needed only small capital investments.

Long-term investment in oil, gas, power plants, highway and railroad constructions will have slow returns on investment.

He added that the United States has already invested in a joint venture with the Republic of Tajikistan (Tajik-Americo Oil Company) in oil fields in the northern area of the country.

He said the oil fields in the north are small. Oil, gas, power plants, road and railroad construction need enormous investment.

Gafarov invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to explore the possibility of investing in the larger oil and gas fields in the southern region of Tajikistan, near Dushanbe.

The Economy Minister said that Iran had signed memoranda of understanding in 1992; unfortunately, none of them was implemented.

However, Gafarov expressed optimism that an agreement will be signed on oil and gas extraction and pipeline grids, power plants and road and railroad construction. The minister declined to make any remarks on domestic political issues. He felt those issues should be left for the Tajik foreign minister.

Daily Examines 'Regional Cooperation'

NC2007113395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "An Era of Dynamic Cooperation Begins"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmanov's visit to Tehran, the first visit to Iran by a Tajik head of state, is considered to be the opening of an era of dynamic mutual cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe.

Bilateral cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe is only one of the areas for boosting regional development. The geographic configuration of the region and the nature of the two countries' economies provide ample opportunity for both to embark on a fruitful cooperation.

The two countries have, to some extent, complementing economies, which is a crucial factor for launching joint ventures. A landlocked state, Tajikistan needs Iranian transportation facilities to reach the high seas and world markets. In fact, access to the high seas is one of the most important elements in today's global trade. Iran has so far laid down a network of transportation which can conveniently connect Tajikistan to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Both countries can, therefore, cooperate in transportation of Tajik goods to other parts of the world.

So far as bilateral trade is concerned, Tajikistan can export its cotton and aluminium to Iran in return for Iranian foodstuffs, garments, and automobile technology.

The Persian language, which is the official language of both countries, is an important factor in enhancing cultural ties between Tehran and Dushanbe. They share a common history and their citizens are eager to visit the monuments which represent their common history.

Iran has played a crucial role in bringing about national reconciliation in some of the erstwhile republics of the former Soviet Union. It was a year ago when Iran tried to use its influence to help end the conflict between the Tajik government and the coalition of the Islamic and democratic forces which has claimed 50,000 lives.

Let us hope that both countries march ahead shoulder to shoulder and give a boost to regional cooperation in order to pave the ground for the regional countries to get rid of foreign powers who exploit its resources and render the regional countries undeveloped.

Commentary Views 'Constructive Talks'

LD1807140795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries.

The three-day visit of the president of Tajikistan and his accompanying delegation to Tehran ended today and they left our country today. They were officially seen off by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the visit of the Tajik delegation to Tehran, constructive talks were held between the two countries' presidents and other political, economic, and cultural officials, and the results of the talks herald a major opening in the bilateral relations between Tehran and Dushanbe.

In the course of the visit to Tehran of the Tajik president, it became clear that the two countries have a serious wish to expand their relations in the light of the new political and international climate. The Republic of Tajikistan is currently in a situation in which the need for the quickest possible resolution of its economic and political problems is felt more than ever. Toward this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran can be of greater assistance to the Muslim people of Tajikistan than any other country. The existence of religious, linguistic, and historical bonds and amazing cultural similarities between the two nations created a great interest, from the start of Tajikistan's independence, in the consolidation of relations between the two countries. However, the occurrence of a political crisis in Tajikistan and, in the wake of it, economic problems and bottlenecks mobilized efforts toward the resolution of this crisis.

Toward this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always wished to have strong and lasting ties with the countries of Central Asia, especially with Tajikistan, has made considerable effort toward resolving the problems of the people of that Muslim republic and it has achieved notable success in this regard.

Bringing closer together the positions and viewpoints of the parties involved in the Tajik crisis, be it the government or opposition Islamic and nationalist forces, may be one of the greatest achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this connection; something which has guaranteed the equal confidence of the Tajik Government and opposition in the Islamic Republic of Iran, bringing about the hope that the two nations of Iran and Tajikistan can enter a new phase of friendly and fraternal relations.

Now, with the visit of the president of Tajikistan to Tehran, it seems as if the last remaining obstacles preventing the consolidation of relations have been removed. The establishment of five working committees for the consolidation of relations and for economic, commercial, political, agricultural, cultural, labor, and social affairs cooperation are a testimony to this fact. The duty of these committees is the identification of possible areas of cooperation and preparing relevant agreements.

In addition to the attainment of various agreements, the Tajik embassy in Tehran was opened during the Tajik president's visit to Iran and it was also decided that flights should be established between Tehran and Dushanbe.

Political analysts see the visit of the Tajik president and his accompanying delegation to Tehran as an extraordinary opportunity for removing obstacles and for laying the foundations for strong relations within the framework of friendship and brotherhood between the two nations — something which can prepare the way for the establishment of peace and calm in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Bangladesh Envoy, Delegation Visit Tehran

Gives Message to Rafsanjani

LD1707214295 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — The special envoy of Bangladesh, Morshed Khan delivered a message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today.

In his message, Khaleda Zia has emphasized on the friendly cooperation between the two countries and extended an invitation to Rafsanjani to visit Dhaka.

At the meeting, President Rafsanjani underlined the need for optimum exploitation of the two countries economic potentials and said Iran has given priority to expand relations with Bangladesh.

President Rafsanjani pointed to the ineffectiveness of the U.S. trade embargo on Iran and said at present Iran has no problem to attract partnership of foreign companies in any economic area.

The Iranian president said the economic progress of Iran in various grounds is outstanding and Iran cannot be ignored in the international equations in view of the geo-political and economic status of the country.

Morshed Khan described Iran's economic progress as eye-catching and said Bangladesh people have become familiar with the capabilities of Iranian industrialists through the trade fairs being held in Dhaka.

Morshed Khan called for active participation of the two countries private sectors to promote trade relations and for establishment of a permanent trade fairs of Iran in Bangladesh.

Delegation Meets With Officials

BK2007103695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh and Iran have agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation in various fields. The prime minister's special envoy, M. Morshed Khan, who led a 15-member trade delegation to Iran held discussions with ministers and officials on strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Morshed Khan met Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq. During the talks, they also agreed to develop commercial relations by establishing joint technical and commercial companies. A memorandum of understanding between the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industry was also signed.

Visit Ends; Accord Signed

LD1907093295 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — An agreement for economic cooperation was signed between Tehran and Dhaka here Tuesday [18 July] at the end of a four-day visit to Iran by Morshed Khan, Bangladesh prime minister's top advisor.

According to the document Iran's Mostazafan and Janbazan (deprived and disabled war veterans) foundation is to export 50,000 tons of clinker for cement production to Bangladesh.

The two sides also agreed to set up a joint shipping line and exchange tourists.

Under the agreement the foundation is to provide Bangladesh with its expertise and know-how in installation of tile manufacturing plants and brick production units.

The foundation also expressed its readiness to carry Bangladeshi goods to the markets in Central Asia and other parts of the world.

It is also to help Bangladesh find new markets for its tea either in Iran or in Central Asian countries.

Morshed Khan arrived here last Saturday.

Commentary Views Rushdie Affair, Ties With EU

95LA0293E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Jun 95 p 8

[Commentary by 'Ali Akbar Dareini: "The Rushdie Affair and Iran-EU Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iranian and European politicians seem to be hopeful of a compromise between Iran and the 15-nation European Union (EU) for the expansion of relations.

European diplomats argue that everything now depends on the Iranian response to the EU at the Cannes summit this week-end.

Iranian moderate politicians of different ranks including foreign diplomacy chief 'Ali Akbar Velayati have welcomed the French-led EU initiative to improve bilateral relations by depoliticizing the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa (religious decree) on the writer of the "Satanic Verses" Salman Rushdie and have made it clear that Iran would not send assassins to enforce the fatwa.

The comments have largely been interpreted as an indication that Iran may be prepared to go for a "softer" line. Of course, the Iranians have explicitly told the Europeans that cancellation of the fatwa itself is impossible because as a religious decree no one has the right to revoke it.

Observers say the Iranian promise not to dispatch assassins to kill Rushdie adequately complies with the EU demand, European politicians in Tehran, however, admit that the Iranian government's pledge is not enough. What do they want? They want the fatwa repealed, and repealed not by the Iranian government but by the leader of the Islamic Revolution himself. In other words they want too much.

Moderate Iranian politicians who have come under criticism from the hardline camp argue that a pledge by the Iranian government not to send commandos to assassinate Rushdie and to respect the laws of the European countries is the only thing they can do. In explicit terms, the Iranian government does not have the right to do anything more; anything more than this exceeds the sphere of its power.

For their part, Iran is hoping that improving relations will secure a pledge from EU members not to follow the American suit in imposing a trade embargo on Iran and maintain excellent economic relations with Tehran. This may include a French promise to expel members of the Iranian terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

Iranian politicians, however, maintain that a desire for improvement of relations is mutual, and the EU needs Iran more than Tehran needs the EU. The reasons:

The EU simply cannot ignore Iran with a population of 60 million because of its strategic position. All the oil in the Persian Gulf region, except that of Iran, is under U.S. protection. The Europeans need an independent and reliable way for their lifeline.

With or without the pledge not to kill Rushdie, Iran can obtain its requirements from the European markets. A radical EU position will strengthen Iran's determination to improve its relations with the Asian countries and obtain its requirement from the industrial tigers.

Moreover, it will not be rational for the EU to put all its eggs in the Rushdie basket. And a radical position would certainly backfire as it did in 1978 when the EU members recalled their ambassadors from Iran but sent their envoys back in disgrace a few months later.

A mutually beneficial policy would be that both sides depoliticize the Rushdie issue and try not to play it up. The Iranian promise not to take any action to kill Rushdie and the EU members pledge not to follow the U.S. lead in their relations with Iran would encourage a new policy of expansion of relations with Iran and see to Tehran's demand for the expulsion of its armed opponents. This would also prove that the EU's policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran has worked.

Pressure on the Iranian government for more concessions would bring the French-led initiative for improvement of Iran-EU relations to total failure. Indeed, radical EU position would damage the Union's economic interests, would isolate the Iranian moderates who have welcomed the initiative and would thwart all the efforts for the betterment of relations.

'Velayat-e Faqih' Called Source of National Dilemma

95LA0281A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 6

[Article by Amir Tahiri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is it possible for a ruler regarded as "infallible" to be accused, after his death, of making a mistake?

This question has been the center of Iranian political argument—albeit behind the scenes—during the past six years. It pertains to decisions made by the late leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, founder of the revolutionary regime in Iran.

The Iranian theory under which Khomeyni assumed power—within the framework of a regime that has continued after his death—is based on a claim that can be formulated as follows: the political authority can have a divine basis, and so it can only be exercised by the "infallible."

It is known in Shiite tradition that the last "infallible" was the 12th Shiite imam, who began his "long absence" more than 1,000 years ago. During his absence and until he returns, authority must be exercised by the "velayat-e faqih," the most prominent religious leader who, somehow, represents "infallibility."

For this reason, he enjoys boundless powers, including the right to annul the effects of the basic principles of Islam, if this was found necessary to maintain his personal rule.

Concerned about leaving room for any possible challenge to his extraordinary rights, Khomeyni declared himself the "ayatollah el-ozma," "velayat-e faqih," and even "imam," thus raising the number of Shiite imams from 12 to 13.

The vast majority of Shiites, of course, viewed these innovations with a combination of anger and amusement, but this strange mixture of a popular theology was the camouflaged resistance that served the ideology of the new regime.

Since Khomeyni's death, this theoretical incantation has been faced with a constant threat. Despite being a shrewd politician, excellent preacher, and sincere disciple, 'Ali Khamene'i, the man who was named as his successor, could not claim that he was the most prominent religious scholar within the authority or the Shiite succession pyramid.

For two weeks last year, some hypocrites persuaded him to try his luck by pretending to be the Shiite traditional authority. Some people, in fact, started calling him "imam," which meant that the number of imams was increased to 14, but the shrewd Sayyed Khamene'i soon realized that his story could not withstand the test of criticism. With a certain sense of dignity, he agreed to stay in his present special position, but what is his position? It is the answer to this question that has preoccupied the minds of many political scientists in Iran.

Khamene'i has classified himself as the "supreme guide" or "the leader" or "the imam's successor," but is he the "infallible" who has the right to exercise boundless powers?

If the answer is in the affirmative, he can, for example, annul some of the fatwas [legal religious rulings] issued by Khomeyni. The Shiite religion rejects the rulings of a dead scholar unless they are endorsed by a living scholar enjoying equal status.

If Khamene'i, on the other hand, does not have the authority to annul the fatwas of a dead religious leader, it would be difficult for him to claim that he is "infallible," which his boundless powers under the Constitution presupposes.

Of course, there is only one clear solution to this dilemma. The position of "velayat-e faqih" can be abolished, and this is not a complicated task. In principle, the removal of two articles from the existing Constitution can solve this dilemma.

If these two articles are removed, the Iranian Constitution will be close to a good translation of the Constitution of the fifth French Republic. Actually, the articles pertaining to the "velayat-e faqih" have no place at all in what is a Western style constitution, more inspired by the values of the French Revolution than by religion. If the situation is normalized in this way, Sayyed Khamene'i, who is serving as a leader for another four-year term, can run again in presidential elections and remain, if elected, a president of the state with limited powers.

This week, a prominent Iranian team will try in Paris to find solutions to difficult questions pertaining to the unnecessary complications created by the principle of "velayat." The Iranian diplomats will try to explain the reason for their inability to annul the fatwa issued by Khomeyni in 1989 to kill Salman Rushdie, the Indian born British writer. At the same time, they will offer written assurances that the Tehran authorities will not take any measures to implement this fatwa.

However, this position is full of holes. If Khomeyni was "infallible," how did he make a mistake? If Khamene'i is the new "imam," how can't he annul Khomeyni's decision? The idea of the "velayat-e faqih" may have been necessary at the beginning of the revolution to strengthen Khomeyni's position in the face of his religious and political opponents, but it has become a source of unending problems for the entire Iranian people. What is worse, Khomeyni's statements and writings during his long life are often used by aspiring opportunists to promote their narrow personal interests.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses Press, Views Economic Issues

BK1507095895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has asked reporters to supplement the government's efforts to develop the country and improve the socioeconomic lot of the common man.

She was addressing newspaper editors and senior journalists in Karachi yesterday. Bhutto said Pakistan is one of the seven emerging markets and she hoped that the flow of foreign investment will continue unhampered. Bhutto said this position has been given to Pakistan by the World Bank and IMF, as the international financial agencies were fully satisfied with the socioeconomic measures of the government. She said the government has signed memorandums of understanding worth over $20 billion. She said $10 billion of the investment promised is in the energy sector. After the implementation of these proposals, the country will have overcome its energy crisis.

Bhutto said the government was giving special priority to problems with water, power, and communications. On unemployment, she said the government has initiated a number of measures, and during the 22 months of her government unemployment definitely has declined. Bhutto said the government also has prepared a 10-year comprehensive program to solve the unemployment problem.

Bhutto said concerted efforts were being made to give unskilled workers vocational training. Similarly, she said efforts were being made to control the population explosion. Population growth has declined somewhat, from 3.9 percent to 2.9 percent. She said the government also has outlined a 10-year health program which will reduce population growth.

Bhutto Affirms Support for Kashmir 'Victims'

BK1207165695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiris till such time the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions, granting the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. She was speaking at the 26th session of the Azad Kashmir Council in Islamabad today. The prime minister, who is also chairperson of the council, said the people of Kashmir are victims to the worst kind of terrorism by the Indian occupation troops. She said the settlement of the Kashmir problem will not only reduce regional tension, but can also end it altogether. She said the Kashmir dispute can only be resolved by implementing UN resolution.

The council adopted a resolution condemning Indian atrocities and human rights violations in the occupied valley. It urged the United Nations and the world community to persuade India to stop atrocities in the area and implement UN resolution to grant the right of self- determination to the Kashmiris. The resolution stressed the urgent need for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute and held India responsible for the explosive situation caused by over 600,000 of its troops. It said the Indian repressive measures and New Delhi's stubborn and hostile attitude is blocking all efforts for peaceful solution of the dispute. The council expressed complete and unflinching support for the people of occupied Kashmir in their just and heroic struggle for the right of self-determination. The council called upon the UN secretary general and the UN Human Rights Commission to send a fact finding mission to the occupied valley to make an on-the-spot investigation of the massive human rights violations. The council also took note of the escalating unprovoked violations at the Line of Control by Indian troops and expressed grave concern over the loss of lives of innocent people. It said that these violations posed a serious threat to the regional peace and security.

The council also passed its over one billion rupee budget for the next financial year. The meeting was attended by the Azad Kashmir president, prime minister, federal minister for Kashmir affairs, and members of the council.

Minister Seeks Indian Negotiations, Not 'Threats'

BK1807103595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has again called upon India to solve the Kashmir problem through negotiations instead of hurling threats on Pakistan. Talking to journalists in Islamabad yesterday, the foreign minister categorically stated that Pakistan will not bow before threats of war, nor can such threats force it to change its just stand on Kashmir. He was commenting on the reported statement of Rajesh Pilot, Indian minister for Internal Security, in which he had threatened to teach Pakistan a lesson because of what he called its interference in Kashmir.

Commenting on the statement of former Indian Foreign Secretary, J.N. Dixit, Asif Ahmad Ali welcomed the statement and said it was a good omen that Indian leadership has started realizing the importance of a solution to the Kashmir issue. Dixit in his statement has called for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine the future of the state. The foreign minister said the state terrorism and brutaltities that India is continuing to inflict on the people of occupied Kashmir are not going to solve the issue.

The foreign minister also referred to Henry Kissinger's observations in which he spoke about India's hegemonic and expansionist designs in the Indian Ocean region.

In reply to a question about an aborted Argentinian resolution [on nuclear non-proliferation] in the UN Security Council, the foreign minister said the resolution was against the UN charter. Pakistan waged a successful campaign against the resolution and defeated it with help from China.

Legislator Condemns Kidnapping of Foreign Tourists

BK1907154595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, has condemned the kidnapping of foreigners in Kashmir and said this could harm the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad today, he said this is a humanitarian issue and efforts should continue for the release of the foreign tourists kidnapped in the occupied territory. Maulana Fazlur Rahman said big powers like the United States, Britain, Germany, and France should pressure India to settle the Kashmir issue.

Official Says Altaf 'Terrorists' May 'Snap Ties'

BK1907132395 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad — The terrorists wing of Altaf Group may part ways with its mentor as a stage do come in terrorism when people find it difficult to extricate themselves from killings and torture, said Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar here Tuesday [18 July]. [sentence as published]

Talking to reporters in his parliamentary chamber here. Babar said the possibility that the terrorists of Altaf Group might decide to snap ties with their leader could not be ruled out.

To a question, the minister said the government was carrying out verification to screen out the policemen who might have connections with the criminals. He said during the tenure of late Sindh Chief minister Jam Sadiq Ali two to three thousand people had been recruited in police department without proper verification.

Babar said the government had also decided to relieve the policemen of their static duties (like on the diplomatic missions or banks etc) in Karachi so that their services could be utilised in the maintenance of law and order situation in the city.

He said the government had also decided to recall at least four to five thousand retired employees of the Frontier Corps by giving them two-year contract. He said about two thousand of them were ready to perform duties in Karachi. The decision was taken as they were not only physically fit due to their early retirement, but were also trained to deal with law and order situation.

Babar said the government would not like to encourage spread of arms in the port city, rather would control the small section of the population which was armed and carrying out terrorist activities.

The minister said Altaf Group had to come to the negotiating table due to psychological pressure and other compulsions. He stressed the need to bring Altaf Group to the mainstream of politics after it renounced violence. He said he could not tell how long it would take. But this is possible as had been already proved in case of ANP [Awami National Party] after it gave up its demand of "Pukhtoonistan".

To a question, Babar banning Altaf Group would not serve any purpose. The group should surrender arms and develop positive approach in politics.

Asked who was killing the innocent people despite govt [government] Altaf Group on-going dialogue, Babar said, everybody knew it well who was behind all this, but no one was ready to disclose it.

On the Ramzi Yosaf case, the minister said the terrorist was being tried in the United States. He said an FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] official had already gone to America and he (Babar) might be able to give some more details after the official returns home.

The minister said the negotiations did not mean that the government should stop taking to task those who were killing the people in Karachi. [passage omitted]

Official Reports 24 Killed, 12 Injured in Karachi

BK2007095895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press release issued by the commissioner of Karachi last night, 24 persons were killed and 12 injured in various parts of the city on Wednesday [19 July].

One person was killed, two injured, and three houses were set on fire in an armed clash between two factions of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group in Hyderabad yesterday. Police says a case has been registered and an investigation launched.

Daily Provides Details on Military 'Reshuffle'

BK1707135495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — While about one dozen newly-promoted major generals have been adjusted in the command and staff structure of Pakistan Army, Corps Commander Gujranwala Lieutenant General Mohammad Tariq has been appointed Principal Staff Officer (PSO to GHQ [General Headquarters]) as inspector General Training and Evaluation (IGT&E).

According to highly-placed authentic sources, Lt Gen Tariq will take on his new assignment in the first week of August. He will be succeeded by ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] Chief Lt Gen Javed Ashraf Qazi, who will become head of the Gujranwala Corps. Qazi's second in command in ISI Major General Nasim Rana will assume the charge of Director-General [DG] ISI on August 5 this year. In another important reshuffle Vice Chief of General Staff (VCGS) Arshad Mehmood has been sent on deputation to a civilian department while Major General Salim Hyder, presently IGT&E, is appointed VCGS.

The sources reveal that GOC [General Officer Commanding] Karachi Maj Gen Mohammad Akram is appointed DG Rangers, Sindh. His predecessor Maj Gen Mushtaq is sent to Jhelum. Commandant Multan Maj Gen Mohammad Yousaf is sent to Karachi in place of Akram.

Several existing or recently-promoted 2-star generals have also been adjusted in the command and staff structure. These included Major Generals Salim Malik, Usman Shah, Hamid Nawaz, Mohammad Anwar, Rizwan Qureshi, Mehmood Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmed, Munir Hafeez, Ghazanffer, Sikandar Hayat, Salimullah, Jamshed Gulzar and Tahir Ali Qureshi.

In another important development, the government has granted extension in the tenure of four 3-star generals who were supposed to retire in August. Their tenure in the Army has been extended up to December. These include Lt Gen Tanvir Hussain Naqvi (Commandant NDC [National Defence College]), Lt Gen Mohammad Akram (DG Joint Staff Headquarters), Lt Gen Mohammad Ayaz (Chief Heavy Industries Taxila) and Lt Gen Humayun Bangash (Corps Commander Lahore).

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